

THORNTON,  
BIECHLIN,  
SEGRATO,  
REYNOLDS  
&  
GUERRA, L.C.

San Antonio  
McAllen  
Austin

THORNTON, BIECHLIN, SEGRATO, REYNOLDS & GUERRA, L.C.

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PARTNERS

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ASSOCIATES

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THORNTON, BIECHLIN, SEGRATO, REYNOLDS & GUERRA, L.C.

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FIRM PROFILE

## THORNTON, BIECHLIN, SEGRATO, REYNOLDS & GUERRA, L.C.

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THORNTON, BIECHLIN, SEGRATO, REYNOLDS & GUERRA, L.C. is primarily a litigation firm concentrating in the preparation and defense of civil law suits in state and federal court throughout Texas. The firm's founding partners began practicing together in San Antonio, Texas more than thirty years ago. With the addition of offices in McAllen and Austin, Texas, the firm is able to serve the needs of its clients throughout Texas. The firm and the attorneys are dedicated to providing the best possible legal services to its clients. This dedication includes coordinating efforts with each individual client to minimize the fees and related expenses connected with the litigation process.

Pride is justifiably taken in the reputation the firm has developed in the state as a whole. The firm is proud of its AV (highest) rating received from Martindale-Hubbell Directory of Attorneys which identifies and evaluates all lawyers and law firms within the United States based upon legal ability, ethical standards, and diligence. Attorneys in the firm presently hold memberships in the Texas Association of Defense Counsel, Defense Research Institute, Federation of Insurance Counsel, International Association of Insurance Counsel, State Bar of Texas, Federal Bar Association, Fifth Circuit Bar Association and other local associations.

Our attorneys are extremely well-qualified in the preparation, trial and appeal of civil litigation. The firm also employs a support staff which includes secretaries, paralegals, a registered nurse and other office personnel. Incorporated into the support system is a full and complete library and data processing equipment to provide efficient, stream-lined services to the client.

It is the firm's earnest goal to provide responsible legal representation to its clients and to continue to grow and expand its influences throughout the state.

## DEFENSE SECTION

Although the firm's practice has expanded into other areas, such as labor and employment law, the firm began and expanded its practice primarily representing the interests of insurers, insureds and self-insured individuals and entities.

The firm's experience includes the preparation, trial and appeal of automobile, premises liability, construction, including construction defect, bad faith, business, employment discrimination, products liability, medical malpractice, legal and other professional malpractice, environmental and toxic torts, silicosis, and other property, fire, casualty and liability claims. The firm also handles workers' compensation and employment matters before various administrative bodies at both the state and federal level. Moreover, the firm provides coverage opinions, risk management advice, and other ancillary services to its clients.

The firm has always endeavored to keep pace with changes in the insurance and claims industry and prides itself on meeting the particular needs of each client in areas such as reporting, budgeting, and adherence to guidelines or special requirements.

Contact Richard J. Reynolds, III. See San Antonio Members under Professional Staff or e-mail at [rreynolds@thorntonfirm.com](mailto:rreynolds@thorntonfirm.com).

## **PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY SECTION**

The firm's Professional Liability Section consists of a Health Law Section and a General Professional Liability Section.

### **Health Law Section**

The attorneys in the Health Law Section, which is headed by the firm's senior partner, Robert R. Biechlin, Jr., represent a variety of health care professionals in connection with both claims and lawsuits filed throughout Texas. Clients include physicians, hospitals, nursing homes, dentists, nurses and other health care professionals.

Contact Robert R. "Rusty" Biechlin. See San Antonio Members under Professional Staff or e-mail at [rbiechlin@thorntonfirm.com](mailto:rbiechlin@thorntonfirm.com).

### **General Professional Liability Section**

The attorneys in the General Professional Liability Section, headed by Richard J. Reynolds, III, represent attorneys, accountants, architects and engineers, real estate professionals, and insurance brokers and agents throughout Texas in litigation arising from those practices.

Contact Richard J. Reynolds, III. See San Antonio Members under Professional Staff or e-mail at [rreynolds@thorntonfirm.com](mailto:rreynolds@thorntonfirm.com).

## **CONSTRUCTION DEFECT LAW SECTION**

The firm has vast experience in the complexities and challenges of construction defect law, including both commercial and residential cases. Our attorneys have worked on cases involving schools, hospitals, public buildings, large construction projects, and have handled both general contractor and subcontractor disputes. Every type of building system, including roofs, building envelopes, heating ventilating and air conditioning systems, plumbing systems, electrical systems, insulation and foundations, have regularly been handled by the members of the Construction Defect Law Section. Partner Robert Guerra periodically speaks on the subject of construction litigation to such groups as the American Institute of Architects and Associated General Contractors.

Contact Robert L. Guerra or Brad Bartlett. For Mr. Guerra, see McAllen Members under Professional Staff or email him at [rguerra@thorntonfirm.com](mailto:rguerra@thorntonfirm.com). For Mr. Bartlett, see San Antonio Members under Professional Staff or e-mail him at [bbartlett@thorntonfirm.com](mailto:bbartlett@thorntonfirm.com).

## **LABOR & EMPLOYMENT LAW SECTION**

The firm's employment law section represents management in a wide variety of employment law matters. Because we have offices located in Austin and McAllen, Texas, we can offer exclusive and timely insight into handling particular employment matters in diversified areas of the state. Of course, our focus is still on claim avoidance through timely advice and counsel before events occur which can lead to lawsuits; however, the firm has extensive jury trial experience in a wide variety of employment law matters. Our expertise includes the following areas:

- ❖ Management counseling;
- ❖ Review and preparation of personnel policy and procedures including employee handbooks;
- ❖ Representation in administrative matters before the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Texas Commission on Human Rights and Texas Workforce Commission;
- ❖ Representation of management in state and federal court for employment related claims involving Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Americans with Disabilities Act, Age Discrimination in Employment Act, Polygraph Protection Act, Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act, Workers' Compensation Retaliation, Family Medical Leave Act, Fair Labor Standards Act, Texas Commission on Human Rights Act and a variety of state court claims such as intentional infliction of emotional distress, invasion of privacy, defamation and negligence;
- ❖ Preparation of arbitration agreements and non-subscriber programs;
- ❖ Training and preventative seminars to comply with recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions; and
- ❖ Wage/hour audits; FLSA claims.

## WORKERS' COMPENSATION LAW SECTION

The Workers' Compensation Section of Thornton, Biechlin, Segrato, Reynolds & Guerra, L.C. provides expert support and representation of insurance carriers, self-insured employers, political subdivisions, third-party administrators and employers. Tim K. Singley, a partner based in the San Antonio office, serves as the head of the Workers' Compensation Section and is Board Certified in Workers' Compensation by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. We provide our clients guidance at every level of a workers' compensation claim. With attorneys specializing in workers' compensation located in San Antonio, Austin, McAllen and Houston, our attorneys are available to cover all Texas venues. Our team assists in decision making prior to the claim reaching the administrative process, through every step of the administrative hearings process, appeal, judicial review, medical dispute resolution and compliance and practice defense. In addition, we provide Austin Board Representation for our clients. The team is comprised of sought after speakers who stay abreast of legislative developments and provide accredited continuing education seminars. Just an example of the comprehensive services provided:

- ❖ Consultation with claims management.
- ❖ Consultation regarding health care delivery options.
- ❖ Representation at administrative hearings regarding contested cases, as well as, resolving benefit disputes.
- ❖ Provide expert witness services.
- ❖ Consultation during audits.
- ❖ Defense for compliance and practice issues at the Division and the State Office of Administrative Hearings.
- ❖ Representation during the Medical Dispute Resolution process.
- ❖ Aggressive prosecution and defense through judicial review.
- ❖ Designated Austin Board Representation.
- ❖ Attend public hearings to represent the interests of clients.
- ❖ Educate clients regarding developments in the law.

Contact Tim K. Singley. See San Antonio Members under Professional Staff or e-mail at [tsingley@thorntonfirm.com](mailto:tsingley@thorntonfirm.com).

## **DIRECTOR OF MARKETING**

**Randy M. McNeel**, born September 14, 1945, Dallas, Texas. He received his undergraduate degree from Sam Houston State University and attended The University of Texas at Austin and Temple University. His background includes numerous claims management positions including Assistant Vice President of Strategic Planning for a large property-casualty insurance company. Randy has been involved with the Insurance Institute of America and holds the AIC, ARM and AIM designations, in addition to completion of various segments of his CPCU. While living in Philadelphia, he also taught IIA courses work. Randy, a registered lobbyist, is actively involved in Texas workers' compensation legislation. He has developed and presented numerous training courses certified by the Texas Department of Insurance for continuing education credit and is a frequent speaker on workers' compensation issues.

Mr. McNeel can be contacted at the Firm's Austin office and his email address is [rmcneel@thorntonfirm.com](mailto:rmcneel@thorntonfirm.com)

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SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

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General Civil Practice. Trials and Administrative Practice  
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Administrative Law, Appellate, Automobile, Business, Commercial  
Litigation, Contracts, Corporations, ERISA and Employee  
Benefits, Health Care, Insurance Law, Labor and Employment  
Law, Mass Torts, Municipalities, Professional Liability,  
Premises Liability, Products liability, Real Estate, Environmental  
and Toxic Torts, Mold and Mildew and Workers' Compensation

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## MEMBERS

**Bradley E. Bartlett**, born Bethesda, Maryland, February 20, 1962; admitted to bar 1988, Texas. Also admitted to practice before the U.S. District Court, Southern District of Texas and The U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit. Preparatory education, Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, Texas (B.A., magna cum laude, 1984); legal education, University of Houston, Texas (J.D., 1987). Fraternity: Phi Delta Phi, American. Member: State Bar of Texas and San Antonio Bar Association.

Mr. Bartlett has handled a wide variety of cases during his career, including premises liability, insurance bad faith, first-party property damage, automobile accidents, products liability and civil rights actions. He has tried cases in both large cities and in small communities.

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**Robert R. Biechlin, Jr.** (av), born San Antonio, Texas, July 11, 1950; admitted to bar 1975, Texas; also admitted to practice before the U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit; U.S. District Court, Western District of Texas. Preparatory education, Stephen F. Austin State University (B.B.A., 1972); legal education, St. Mary's University School of Law (J.D., 1974, with distinction). Fraternity: Phi Delta Phi; John M. Harlan Society

(honorary). Member: State Bar of Texas; Defense Research Institute; Texas Association of Defense Counsel; William S. Sessions Inns of Court; Fellow, Texas Bar Foundation; Advocate, American Board of Trial Advocates and San Antonio Bar Association/Bexar County Medical Society Medical-Legal Liaison Committee (Legal Chairman, 2003-04)

Mr. Biechlin, who graduated first in his law school class, has, in the past, litigated an assortment of general liability cases. He is the head of the firm's Health Law Section and currently focuses his practice on the defense of medical malpractice, nursing home and other health care liability cases, and additionally handles selected complex products liability and construction accident suits.

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**Scott F. Cline** (av), born Houston, Texas, July 2, 1956; admitted to bar 1981, Texas; also admitted to practice before the U.S. District Court, Southern District of Texas. Preparatory education, University of Texas, Austin (B.B.A., in Finance, 1978); legal education, South Texas College of Law, Houston, Texas (J.D., 1981). Assistant City Attorney, Wharton, Texas, 1981-1983. County Attorney, Wharton County, Texas, 1983-1992. Member: San Antonio Bar Association; State Bar of Texas.

Mr. Cline now concentrates on the defense of claims and ethics complaints against real estate agents, real estate litigation, and non-medical professional liability after having litigated and defended a variety of personal injury, liability, and criminal suits, as well as having a real estate transactional practice and working with a family-owned title company.

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**W. Randall Hutton**, born Bryan, Texas, April 14, 1961; admitted to bar 1992, Texas. Preparatory education, Alvin Community College, Tyler Jr. College; University of Texas, Tyler (B.S., with honors, 1988); UTT Distinguished Student Award (1988), Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities (1986, 1987), Presidential Scholar (1985-1987). Fraternity: Alpha Chi Honor Society; legal education, Texas Tech School of Law (J.D., cum laude, 1991). Board of Regents Scholar (1990-1992), American Jurisprudence Award: Products liability. Fraternity: Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. Member: State Bar of Texas.

Mr. Hutton concentrates his practice primarily in the area of workers' compensation. Mr. Hutton serves as liaison to the Texas Department of Insurance and oversees the accreditation concerns of the firm's continuing education programs which are offered to clients. Mr. Hutton also lectures on contemporary workers' compensation and consumer protection topics.

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**R. Sean Page** (av), born Frankfurt, Germany, September 25, 1964; admitted to bar 1992, Texas; also admitted to practice before the U.S. District Courts, Western District of Texas. Preparatory education, Texas A&M University (B.S., 1987); Southern

Methodist University (M.B.A., 1989); legal education, St. Mary's University School of Law (J.D., 1992). University Honors Program, Distinguished Student, National Economics Award. Board of Advocates. Member: State Bar of Texas.

Mr. Page concentrates his practice in the trial of personal injury and property damage cases, including automobile and trucking litigation, products liability litigation and construction injury claims as well as the trial of commercial disputes.

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**Richard J. Reynolds, III** (av), born Glen Ridge, New Jersey, December 2, 1951; admitted to bar 1978, Texas; also admitted to practice before the U.S. District Court, Southern, Northern, and Western Districts of Texas. Preparatory education, Texas Christian University (B.A., 1974); legal education, St. Mary's University School of Law (J.D., 1978). Fraternity: Phi Alpha Delta. Member: San Antonio and American (Member, Section on Tort and Insurance Practice) Bar Associations; State Bar of Texas; Texas Association of Defense Counsel; Defense Research Institute; William S. Sessions Inns of Court.

Mr. Reynolds is the firm's Managing Partner. Additionally, he heads the firm's General Professional Liability Section, with a substantial portion of his practice devoted to the representation of lawyers, accountants and other professionals. He works with and defends insurers against a variety of extra-contractual claims and suits. Based on considerable experience in the defense of toxic tort and environmental claim litigation, he continues to handle selected matters in these areas as well.

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**Gerald L. Shiely** (av), born Fort Lee, Virginia, May 13, 1954; admitted to bar 1982, Texas; also admitted to practice before the U.S. District Court, Southern and Western Districts of Texas. Preparatory education, University of Texas, Austin (B.B.A., 1978); legal education, University of Houston (J.D., 1981). Fraternity: Phi Delta Phi. Member: San Antonio and American (Member, Section on Tort and Insurance Practice) Bar Associations; State Bar of Texas; Texas Association of Defense Counsel; Defense Research Institute.

In addition to having litigated and defended a variety of personal injury and liability suits, Mr Shiely has extensive involvement in the defense of products liability suits, commercial accidents and litigation in complex personal injury matters. His area of practice has also extended to and includes defense and litigation of automobile cases involving significant injuries or death, as well as defense of insurers against bad faith and other extra-contractual claims.

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**Tim K. Singley** (av), born Killeen, Texas, January 12, 1966; admitted to bar 1991, Texas; also admitted to practice before the U.S. District Court, Southern District of Texas. Preparatory education, Texas Tech University (B.A., 1988); legal education,

Oklahoma City University School of Law, University of Texas School of Law (J.D., 1991). Fraternity: Phi Alpha Delta, Phi Delta Theta. Outstanding Young Men of America 1989, American Inns of Court. Member: State Bar of Texas, State Bar College, Board Certified in Workers' Compensation Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.

Mr. Singley concentrates his practice primarily in the area of workers' compensation and employer liability defense. Mr. Singley is a frequent lecturer and author on workers' compensation and employer liability topics. Mr. Singley also serves as an Executive Council Member for the Workers Compensation Section of the State Bar of Texas.

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**Mary M. Strauss-Page** (av), born Cleveland, Ohio, March 16, 1972; admitted to bar 1998, Texas. Preparatory education, University of Texas at Austin (B.S. with honors, 1994); legal education, St. Mary's University School of Law (J.D., cum laude, 1998). Member: State Bar of Texas and San Antonio Bar Association.

Ms. Strauss' practice includes the preparation and trial of automobile and premises liability cases. Additionally, she assists in the investigation and preparation of other more complex matters, including products liability, insurance coverage and first party bad faith claims.

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**Vaughan E. Waters** (av), born San Antonio, Texas, November 20, 1954; admitted to bar, 1981, Texas; 1985, California; 1988, U.S. District Court, Southern District of Texas; 1997, U. S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit . Board Certified, Civil Appellate Law, Texas Board of Legal Specialization. Author: "Adequate Compensation--The Trail From Buffalo Bayou", 55 TEX. BAR. J. 224, March 1992; "The 1991 Property Code Amendments--The Second Time Around", 57 TEX. BAR. J. 14, January 1994; "Serving Two Masters - Insurance Defense Counsel And The Tripartite Dilemma", UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SCHOOL OF LAW 4TH ANNUAL INSURANCE LAW CONFERENCE (1999). Preparatory education, University of Texas (B.A., 1977); legal education, Texas Tech University (J.D., 1981). Fraternity: Phi Alpha Delta. Lieutenant, JAG Corps, U.S. Navy, 1981-1986. Member: State Bar of Texas; State Bar of California.

Mr. Waters' practice consists of civil appeals and the defense of personal injury, professional liability, property damage, and deceptive trade practice cases, as well as insurance coverage and bad faith claims.

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**Gerald R. Zwernemann** (av), born Kingsville, Texas, March 11, 1947; admitted to bar 1974, Texas; also admitted to practice before U. S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit; U.S. District Court, Southern District (1977) and Western District (1983) of

Texas. Preparatory education, University of Texas, Austin (B.B.A., 1970); legal education, St. Mary's University School of Law (J.D., 1974). City Attorney, Brownsville, Texas 1977-79. Fraternity: Phi Delta Phi. Member: San Antonio Bar Association; State Bar of Texas.

Mr. Zwernemann concentrates his practice in the areas of premises liability, motor vehicle and transportation liability, silicosis litigation, and construction accidents.

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## ASSOCIATES

**Jessica B. Burda**, born September 26, 1983, San Marcos, Texas; admitted to bar November, 2008. Preparatory education: Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas (B.A. Mass Communication, 2005); legal education: St. Mary's University School of Law, (J.D. 2008). Member: State Bar of Texas.

Ms. Burda currently concentrates her practice in the area of personal injury defense.

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**Lance C. Blankenship**, born December 17, 1975, Austin, Texas; admitted to bar November 6, 2003. Also, license pending in the U.S. District Court, Western and Southern Districts of Texas. Preparatory education: Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas (B.S. Accounting, 1998); legal education: St. Mary's University School of Law (J.D., 2003). Member: Young Lawyers Association; State Bar of Texas.

Mr. Blankenship is a member of the firm's Labor & Employment Law Section and his practice focuses on employment related litigation and advising public and private entities on statutory and regulatory compliance, employee relations, and management training.

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**John D. Carlos** (av), born Mangum, Oklahoma, October 18, 1949; admitted to bar 1975, Texas. Preparatory education, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas (B.B.A., 1972); legal education, Baylor University, Waco, Texas (J.D., 1975). Fraternity: Phi Alpha Delta. Board Certified, Personal Injury Trial Law, Texas Board of Legal Specialization, 1981. Pattern Jury Charge Committee, 1986-88. Member: San Antonio Bar Association; State Bar of Texas; Texas Association of Defense Counsel.

Mr. Carlos currently concentrates his practice in the area of personal injury defense.

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**Joseph G. Pena**, born San Antonio, Texas, May 2, 1979; admitted to bar 2006, Texas. Licensed in the U.S. District Court, Western District of Texas. Preparatory education, St. Mary's University, San Antonio, Texas (B.A. Economics, 2001); legal education, St. Mary's University School of Law, San Antonio, Texas (J.D., 2005). Fraternity: Phi Delta Phi. Member: American Bar Association; San Antonio Bar Association; State Bar of Texas; Texas Young Lawyers Association; and San Antonio Young Lawyers Association.

Mr. Pena is currently practicing in the areas of insurance defense, commercial litigation and business transactions.

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**Andrew K. Stamper**, born Kansas City, Missouri, February 6, 1977; admitted to bar 2002, Texas. Admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of Texas, United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces and United States Air Force Court of Criminal Appeals. Preparatory education, Baylor University, Waco, Texas (B.B.A., 1999); legal education: University of Texas School of Law, Austin, Texas (J.D., 2002). Mr. Stamper served on active duty in the U.S. Air Force, Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Corps from 2002 to 2008. Member: State Bar of Texas; San Antonio Young Lawyers Association.

Mr. Stamper currently concentrates his practice in the area of personal injury defense.

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**Michael H. Wallis**, born Houston, Texas, July 29, 1974; admitted to bar 2001, Texas, also admitted to practice before the U.S. District Courts Southern, Northern, and Western Districts of Texas and U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit. Preparatory education, Loyola University, New Orleans, Louisiana (B.A. Public Relations, 1996); legal education: South Texas College of Law, Houston, Texas (J.D., 2001). Honors and Distinctions: National Order of Barristers (2001); National First Amendment Moot Court Tournament - First Place (2001); National Health Law Moot Court Tournament - First Place (2000). Member: State Bar of Texas; San Antonio Bar Association.

Mr. Wallis currently concentrates his practice in the defense of a variety of professional liability claims including medical and legal malpractice as well as personal injury claims.

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MCALLEN, TEXAS

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General Civil Practice. Trials and Administrative Practice  
before State and Federal Court, Departments and Agencies.

Administrative Law, Appellate, Automobile, Business,  
Commercial Litigation, Contracts, Corporations, ERISA and  
Employee Benefits, Health Care, Insurance Law, Labor and  
Employment Law, Mass Torts, Municipalities, Professional  
Liability, Premises Liability, Products liability, Real Estate,  
Environmental and Toxic Torts, Mold and Mildew,  
and Workers' Compensation

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MEMBERS

**Rafael Garcia, Jr.**, born September 21, 1965, Harlingen, Texas; admitted to bar 1991, Texas. Preparatory education, University of Texas, Austin (B.A., 1988); legal education, University of Texas at Austin School of Law (J.D., 1991). Member: State Bar of Texas, Cameron County Bar Association.

Mr. Garcia is involved in the defense of wrongful death, products liability, premises liability, professional liability, commercial and construction litigation. He also handles workers' compensation matters for insurance carriers, employers and certified self-insureds.

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**Robert L. Guerra** (bv), born Dallas, Texas, September 10, 1952; admitted to bar 1977, Texas; also admitted to practice before the U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit; U.S. District Courts, Southern District of Texas. Preparatory education, University of Notre Dame (B.A., 1974); legal education, University of Texas, Austin (J.D., 1977). Member: Hidalgo County Bar Association (Secretary, Board of Directors, 1981-82); State Bar of Texas.

Mr. Guerra has been actively involved in handling catastrophic cases such as building collapses, explosions and multiple party mass torts. His practice includes wrongful death, products liability, professional liability, commercial construction, mold and mildew, medical malpractice and defense of hospitals and health care providers.

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**Joseph L. Segrato** (av), born Houston, Texas, November 7, 1940; admitted to bar, 1965, Texas; also admitted to practice before the U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit; U.S. District Court, Southern and Western Districts of Texas. Preparatory and legal education, University of Texas (B.B.A., 1962; J.D., 1965). Fraternity: Phi Alpha Delta. Member: San Antonio Bar Association; State Bar of Texas; Texas Association of Defense Counsel; Defense Research Institute.

Mr. Segrato has 30 years of personal injury trial experience and is recognized as one of the foremost defense lawyers in the State. He is heavily involved in the defense of complex significant injury cases, including those involving construction accidents, products liability, environmental and toxic torts, mold and mildew and liquor liability. Additionally and he is actively engaged in commercial litigation.

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**Ricardo D. Villanueva** (bv), born July 21, 1966, McAllen, Texas; admitted to bar 1995, Texas and 1993, Michigan; admitted to practice before Texas State Courts and the Michigan State Courts; also admitted to practice before the U.S. District Court, Southern District of Texas. Preparatory education, Texas A & M University, College Station, Texas (B.A. Political Science, 1989); legal education, Thomas M. Cooley Law School of Lansing, Michigan (J.D., 1993). Member: State Bar of Texas and State Bar of Michigan.

Mr. Villanueva concentrates his practice in personal injury litigation including automobile, premises liability and construction accidents and defects, as well as work related injury issues for insurance carriers, employers and certified self-insureds. He also handles more complex matters including environmental, toxic and geo-seismic litigation involving significant injuries, damages and/or deaths.

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## ASSOCIATES

**Martin A. Canales**, born November 24, 1965, Roma, Texas; admitted to the Texas Bar in May, 2004. Preparatory education: University of Texas at Austin (B.S. Civil Engineering, 1989); legal education: South Texas College of Law, Houston, Texas (J.D., 2002). Memberships: Texas State Bar Association and the American Bar Association.

Mr. Canales is fluent in Spanish and has over 15 years of international experience with the largest oil company in the world. His work experience includes environmental claims defense, environmental litigation support, environmental engineering and remediation and construction and maintenance. Mr. Canales currently concentrates his practice in the areas of construction defect, professional liability and environmental law.

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**Josephine (Josie) Ramirez** born 1973, Edinburg, Texas; admitted to the Texas Bar in November, 1998. Admitted to practice before all Texas State Courts as well as the U.S. District Court, Western District of Texas. Preparatory education: Southwestern University, Georgetown, Texas (B.A. Political Science, 1995); Texas Tech University College of Business Administration, Lubbock, Texas (M.B.A., 1998); legal education; Texas Tech University School of Law (J.D., 1998). Honors: Texas Rising Star in 2004, 2005, 2007, as published in *Law & Politics* and *Texas Monthly*. Former Directory of Texas Rural Legal Aide. Memberships: Texas State Bar Association and Hidalgo County Bar Association.

Ms. Ramirez concentrates her practice in personal injury litigation, including commercial, automobile and premises liability. She is also experienced in construction defect litigation.

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AUSTIN, TEXAS

## AUSTIN

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Premises Liability, Products liability, Real Estate, Environmental  
and Toxic Torts, Mold and Mildew, and Workers' Compensation

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## MEMBERS

**Kimberly A. Bishop**, born St. Louis, Missouri, June 4, 1960; admitted to bar 1988, Texas; also admitted to practice before the U.S. District Court and Southern District of Texas in 1990. Preparatory education, University of Houston (B.A., magna cum laude); legal education, South Texas College of Law (J.D. 1986). Beta Gamma Sigma; Sigma Iota Epsilon; Delta Theta Phi, Intern, Judicial District Court of Harris County. Member: Houston and American Bar Associations; State Bar of Texas; Texas Association of Defense Counsel.

Ms. Bishop has practiced in the field of insurance defense with a primary focus in workers' compensation since 1988. She served as a partner in a Houston based defense firm and subsequently owned her own practice. After years of running her own practice, Ms. Bishop became a partner at an Austin workers' compensation defense firm. Ms. Bishop has extensive experience at all phases of dispute resolution before the Division of Workers' Compensation and District Courts. In addition to handling her active docket, Ms. Bishop provides training to adjusters and employers throughout the state on workers' compensation issues.

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**Michael J. Clark** (av), born Albuquerque, New Mexico, February 27, 1955; admitted to bar 1987, Texas; also admitted to practice before the U.S. District Court, Western District of Texas. Preparatory education, University of Texas, Austin (B.A., 1979); legal education, Texas Tech University (J.D., 1987). Briefing Attorney for Honorable Max Osborne, Chief Justice, Court of Appeals for the Eighth Supreme Judicial District of Texas, 1987-88. Fraternity: Phi Alpha Delta. Member: State Bar of Texas; Travis County Bar Association.

Mr. Clark is one of the firm's resident partners in the Austin office. He is an experienced trial lawyer who currently concentrates his efforts in the areas of personal injury law, automobile litigation, premises liability litigation, workers' compensation, bad faith litigation, professional liability and construction litigation.

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**Curtis J. Kurhajec** (av), born Berkeley, California, April 7, 1961; admitted to bar 1985, Texas; also admitted to practice before the U.S. District Court, Western District of Texas. Preparatory education, Baylor University, Waco, (B.B.A., 1984); legal education, Baylor University School of Law, Waco (J.D., 1985), Member: Travis County Bar Association; State Bar of Texas.

Mr. Kurhajec is an active trial lawyer concentrating on premises liability, construction, accident, catastrophic auto and products liability cases. He also has overall supervision of the firm's Austin, Texas office.

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## **ASSOCIATES**

**John W. Henvey** (av), born Washington, D.C., August 18, 1945; admitted to bar 1973, Texas; also admitted to practice before the U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit; U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit; and U.S. District Court, Northern District of Texas. Preparatory education, Hardin-Simmons University (B.A. Economics – 1968); legal education, University of Texas School of Law (J.D. 1973). Board Certified Civil Trial Law and Personal Injury Trial Law, Texas Board of Legal Specialization. Member: National Board of Trial Advocacy, 1989 - 1996; State Bar of Texas and Travis County Bar Association.

Mr. Henvey has 30 years experience in civil trials and appeals in numerous counties in Texas. He has tried and appealed many vehicle accident cases, as well as suits involving products liability, governmental torts, premises liability, medical, podiatrist, chiropractic, and dental malpractice, professional malpractice, liability and health insurance coverage, workers' compensation coverage, ERISA and COBRA violations, insurance premium collections, and various contract, corporate, and business disputes.

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**Brandi Prejean**, born New Orleans, LA, August 24, 1977; admitted to bar 2002, Texas. Preparatory education, Louisiana State University (B.A. 1998); legal education, Louisiana State University's Paul Hebert School of Law, Baton Rouge, Louisiana (J.D. and Bachelor of Civil Law 2002). Member: American Bar Association; Travis County Bar Association; Austin Young Lawyers Association; Travis County Women Lawyers' Association; and a faculty member of the National Alliance for Insurance Education and Research.

Mrs. Prejean handles workers' compensation, administrative law, employment-related litigation and bad faith litigation. She is also a frequent speaker at educational seminars regarding workers' compensation matters and legislative changes.

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