



David Coale

Partner

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Widely recognized as one of the top appellate lawyers in Texas, David Coale's diverse experience ranges from sophisticated constitutional issues in the United States Supreme Court to defense of a payphone operator before a Tarrant County Justice of the Peace. He is among the few lawyers to have handled a matter in all fifteen of the Texas intermediate courts of appeal, and is the only known Texas appellate lawyer who has been fictionalized in a romance-novel series as the lawyer for an outlaw motorcycle gang.

A frequent commentator on legal issues, David publishes 600camp.com, a popular blog about business cases in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, and 600commerce.com, a similar blog about the Dallas Court of Appeals and Texas Supreme Court. His recent articles have appeared in *Slate*, *Salon*, the *Times of Israel*, and the *Cornell Law Review Online*.

HONORS & AWARDS

- Elected President of the Board of Directors of the Bar Association of the Fifth Federal Circuit, 2025-2026
- Inaugural Recipient, *Dallas Bar Association's* annual "Lawyers' Lawyer" award, 2024
- Recognized as a "Top Lawyer in DFW" by *Chambers & Partners*, 2022-2025
- Recognized as "Best Lawyers" (Appellate and Commercial Litigation) by *D Magazine* in 2008-2011, 2014-2026
- Named to the "Hall of Fame ", *D Magazine* in 2025
- Named as one of "500 Leading Litigators in America," by *Lawdragon*, 2022, 2024-2026
- Named "Leading Appellate Attorney of the Year in Texas" by *Acquisition International*, 2022
- Honored as a "Leader in His Field" by *Chambers & Partners USA Guide to Leading Lawyers – Appellate Litigation (Texas) Lawyers*, 2022
- Named "Lawyer of the Year" in DFW appellate law by *Best Lawyers*, 2021
- Awarded "Litigation Star" by *Benchmark Litigation*, 2021-2026
- Received the "Legal Innovator" award by *Texas Lawyer*, 2020

- Senior Fellow, Litigation Council of America, 2020-2024
- Named "Best Lawyers in America" (Appellate and Commercial Litigation) by *Best Lawyers*, 2012-2026
- Selected as "Texas Super Lawyer," by *Super Lawyers*, 2003-2026 (Top 100 in DFW, 2014-2019, 2023-2024 and Top 100 in Texas, 2015, 2017, 2019)
- Recognized as "Best Lawyers" (Appellate and Commercial Litigation) by *D Magazine* in 2008-2011, 2014-2020, 2022
- Received the "Texas Trailblazers" award by *Texas Lawyer*, 2019
- Profiled as a "Defender," one of 15 leading defense lawyers, by the *Dallas Business Journal*, 2009

EDUCATION

- University of Texas School of Law, J.D., *with honors*, 1993
 - Chief Articles Editor, *Texas Law Review*
 - Order of the Coif
- Harvard University, B.A., *cum laude*, 1990
 - National Policy Debate Champion, 1990

JUDICIAL CLERKSHIPS

- Law Clerk, Hon. Patrick Higginbotham, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- Reversal of a \$24 million judgment in a contract dispute about refurbishment of railroad tank cars. *Sunoco Partners v. Trinity Industries*, 2026 WL 2572827 (Tex. App.—Dallas Aug. 31, 2026, no pet. h.)
- Affirmance of the dismissal of a city's attempt to unwind a \$17.4 million loan transaction. *River Creek Dev. Corp. v. Preston Hollow Capital, LLC*, 739 S.W.3d 825 (Tex. 2026).
- Reversal of a \$2 million judgment against a commercial landlord arising from a rat infestation. *JM-RB Properties v. Harris Ventures*, 2026 WL 826631 (Tex. App.—Dallas March 25, 2026, pet. filed).
- Affirmance of the right of Southwest Airlines pilots union to sue Boeing about the impact of the 737 Max. *Boeing v. Southwest Airlines Pilots Association*, 716 S.W.3d 140 (Tex. 2025), cert. denied, 146 S. Ct. 1616 (2026).
- Affirmance of a temporary injunction, based on the Texas Constitution's guarantees of economic liberty, against Dallas's ban on 95% of short-term rentals (Airbnb, Vrbo, etc.). *City of Dallas v. Dallas Short-Term Rental Alliance*, 2025 WL 2022063 (Tex. App.—Dallas July 18, 2025, pet. filed).
- Affirmance of a defense judgment in a multi-million-dollar claim about an outage in processing

payments for the federal food stamp program. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. v. Xerox State & Local Solutions, Inc., 663 S.W.3d 569 (Tex. 2023), on remand, 2024 WL 5087116 (Tex. App.— Dallas Dec. 12, 2024, no pet.).

- Affirmance of the denial of a TCPA motion to dismiss in a high-profile business defamation case. Marble Ridge Capital LP v. Neiman Marcus Group, Inc., 611 S.W.3d 113 (Tex. App.—Dallas 2020, pet. dismiss'd).
- Affirmance of a take-nothing judgment in a multi-million dollar dispute about development of an “energy tea.” Jacked Up, LLC v. Sara Lee Corp., 807 Fed. Appx. 344 (5th Cir. 2020).
- Reversal of a “bet the business” case for a short-line railroad in the Texas Panhandle. BNSF Railway v. Panhandle Northern R.R., 946 F.3d 705 (5th Cir. 2020)