

## **2019 APPELLATE ADVOCACY SEMINAR BIOGRAPHIES**

### **Michael Bentley**

Michael Bentley is a partner in the Jackson, Mississippi office, where he concentrates his practice on appellate and commercial litigation, including class actions and complex disputes. Michael has extensive experience in healthcare litigation, including defense of private correctional healthcare providers operating in state prison systems.

In his appellate practice, Michael advises clients on trial and appeal strategy, drafts and argues critical trial motions, and handles all aspects of an appeal – from briefing through oral argument. He has litigated a wide variety of appeals, including constitutional and statutory claims, tax disputes, product liability claims, insurance coverage disputes, healthcare matters, and professional malpractice claims. Michael frequently represents amicus parties on appeal. In addition to his appellate responsibilities at the firm, Michael serves on the Board of Governors for the Bar Association of the Federal Fifth Circuit. Prior to joining the firm, Michael clerked for Judge Leslie H. Southwick at the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Michael's litigation experience ranges from class actions and commercial disputes to tax protests, zoning contests, and commercial speech challenges. Michael has represented healthcare providers in regulatory investigations, administrative proceedings, and litigation. He also has significant experience handling Section 1983 civil rights suits, with a particular emphasis on defending correctional healthcare providers. Michael also advises clients on insurance coverage issues, a critical and sometimes undervalued component of business litigation.

From 2000 to 2004, Michael served in state government, first as an aid to Mississippi Gov. Ronnie Musgrove and later as office manager for the State Superintendent of Education. As a member of the governor's staff, Michael was responsible for constituent communications and legislative affairs; he was also the governor's liaison to county and municipal governments.

In addition to his law practice, Michael remains active in his community and local bar organizations, having served as the president of the Jackson Young Lawyers Association, a director for the Mississippi Young Lawyers Division, and a volunteer pro bono attorney for clients referred by the Mississippi Center for Justice and Southern Poverty Law Center. In 2011, he was named "Young Lawyer of the Year" by his alma mater, Mississippi College School of Law, for his contributions to the legal community. In 2014, he was recognized by the Mississippi Business Journal as one of Mississippi's "Top 40 Under 40" business leaders.

## **Hon. Henry Bemporad**

Judge Bemporad has been a United States Magistrate Judge for the Western District of Texas in the San Antonio Division since 2012. He was the Federal Public Defender for the Western District of Texas from 2007–12. He previously served as Deputy Federal Public Defender from 1998–2007, as a Supervisory Assistant Federal Public Defender from 1993–98, and as an Assistant Federal Public Defender from 1990–93. From 1988 to 1990, he clerked for United States District Judge Edward C. Prado, who now sits on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

Judge Bemporad served the U.S. Courts as the appellate representative to the Office of Defender Services Training Expert Panel, as co-chair of the Defender Supreme Court Resource & Assistance Panel, and as Defender Liaison to the Criminal Law Committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States. He also previously served as co-chair of the National Association of Federal Defenders Amicus Committee, as Fifth Circuit vice-chair of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers Amicus Committee, and as a member of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee of the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association. Judge Bemporad also co-founded and served for many years as regular faculty of the Federal Judicial Center's Appellate Writing Workshop.

Judge Bemporad recently served on the Committee on Pattern Jury Instructions for the District Judges Association of the Fifth Circuit, assisting in the preparation of Pattern Jury Instructions (Criminal Cases) (2015 ed.). He is a Fellow of the San Antonio Bar Foundation, a member of the San Antonio Chapter of the Federal Bar Association, the Federal Courts Committee of the San Antonio Bar Association, the Federal Magistrate Judges's Association, and the Judges Division of the American Bar Association.

Judge Bemporad is the author of *An Introduction to Federal Sentencing* (13th ed. 2011). His other published works include articles in the *St. Mary's Law Journal* and *Voice for the Defense*, and as a contributing author to *DEFENDING A FEDERAL CRIMINAL CASE* (2010 ed.).

Judge Bemporad received his B.A. from the University of Texas at Austin in 1985 (with highest honors), and his J.D. from Stanford University in 1988 (with distinction).

## **Katherine Brem**

A Big Law refugee, Katherine Brem has taught Lawyering Skills and Strategies – formerly Legal Research and Writing – to 1L students and foreign LL.M. candidates at the University of Houston Law Center for more than 10 years. She also teaches a writing seminar, Federal Pretrial Drafting, to 3L students interested in litigation practice. Professor Brem regularly speaks on best writing practices and mindfulness in practice to professional and academic groups. She is an active member of the legal writing and Law Center communities. And statewide, she has served on the Pattern Jury Charge, Law Practice Management, and Unauthorized Practice of Law committees. She is a 1994 graduate of the University of Texas School of Law. And she focuses her research on the intersection of legal research and writing, evidence, procedure, and doctrinal law. Follow Professor Brem on Twitter at @BremKate.

## **Lyle W. Cayce**

Mr. Cayce obtained a Juris Doctorate from the University Of Kentucky School Of Law and then served 27 years with the United States Army Judge Advocate General's Corps. Among other military assignments, he served as Senior Litigation Attorney for the United States Army Litigation Division, where he represented the Army in appeals to 11 different Circuit Courts of Appeals. He served as the Senior Legal Officer (Staff Judge Advocate) at three Army installations; as the senior U.S. Legal Officer for U.S. Army forces in Hungary in 1998; as Legal Advisor of a Multi-National Division in Bosnia between September 2000 and October 2001; and as the Staff Judge Advocate for the Third Infantry Division during the invasion of Iraq in 2003. He became the tenth Clerk of Court for the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals on April 1, 2010, after serving 18 months as Chief Deputy Clerk for the court. Mr. Cayce has assisted the Administrative Office of the Courts and Judicial Conference of the United States through service on national level groups, including the Information Technology Advisory Council, which recommends deployment of Information Technology programs, systems, and services for the Judiciary. He currently serves as chair of the Appellate Clerks Advisory Group.

## **Katherine E. Clark**

Katherine Clark is an Administrative Attorney at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. Prior to joining the Fifth Circuit in 2015, she clerked for U.S. District Judge Callie V.S. Granade in the Southern District of Alabama. Ms. Clark holds an LL.M. in Information, Technology and Intellectual Property Law from the University of East Anglia in Norwich, UK; a J.D. from Samford University's Cumberland School of Law; and a B.A. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

## **Timothy Crooks**

Tim Crooks graduated with a B.S. (summa cum laude) from Tulane University, and received his J.D. (magna cum laude) from Tulane Law School. Immediately after graduating from law school, he clerked for Associate Justice Walter F. Marcus, Jr., of the Louisiana Supreme Court. After stints in private practice and as a staff attorney at the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, Mr. Crooks joined the office of the Federal Public Defender, Northern District of Texas, where he served as an Assistant Federal Public Defender from 1990 to June of 2001, and the Chief of Appeals from 1993 to 2001. In July of 2001, he joined the office of the Federal Public Defender for the Southern District of Texas, where he served as the Chief of the Appellate Section in Houston, Texas, until his retirement in 2017. He is currently in private practice. In 1999, Mr. Crooks was named an Outstanding Assistant Federal Public Defender. He served as the President of the National Association of Federal Defenders from 2005 until 2007. In 2014, he was awarded the Gregory S. Coleman Outstanding Appellate Lawyer Award by the Texas Bar Foundation. He is a Governor Emeritus of the Board of Governors of the Bar Association of the Fifth Federal Circuit. Mr. Crooks briefed and argued the federal death penalty case of *Louis Jones v United States* before the United States Supreme Court in October Term 1998, and he assisted in the United States Supreme Court briefing and oral argument preparation for *AlmendarezTorres v United States* in October Term 1997. He was also lead counsel in *Reymundo Toledo-Flores v. United States*, U.S. Sup. Ct. No. 05-7664, argued before the Supreme Court in October Term 2006, and *Saul Molina-Martinez v. United States*, U.S. Sup. Ct. No. 14-8913, argued before the Supreme Court in October Term 2015.

## **Margaret Oertling Cupples**

Margaret Cupples focuses on civil appeals and commercial litigation. Her practice centers on asbestos, benzene and silica mass-tort and products liability cases, and also includes insurance sales practices, consumer finance, and general commercial litigation. She has participated in more than two dozen appeals in Mississippi's Supreme Court and Court of Appeals, and in the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. Margaret is listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*® in the field of Appellate Law and Products Liability Litigation, and in *Benchmark Litigation* as a Litigation Star and one of the Top 250 Business Women in Litigation.

## **Hon. Kyle Duncan**

Judge Duncan received his B.A. from Louisiana State University in 1994, his J.D. from the Paul M. Hebert Law Center at Louisiana State University in 1997, and his LL.M. from Columbia Law School in 2004.

After graduating from law school, he clerked for Louisiana-based Circuit Judge John Malcolm Duhé Jr. of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

From 2008–2012, Duncan served as Appellate Chief for Louisiana's Attorney General's office. From 2012–2014, he served as general counsel of the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty. From 2004–2008, he was an assistant professor of law at the University of Mississippi School of Law.

Before becoming a judge, Duncan practiced at the Washington, D.C. firm of Schaerr Duncan LLP, where he was a founding partner. He was appointed by President Trump to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit on May 1, 2018.

## **Hon. Kurt D. Engelhardt**

Kurt D. Engelhardt was nominated for a seat on the United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals by President Donald J. Trump, confirmed by the Senate on May 9, 2018, and officially sworn in as a United States Circuit Judge on May 15, 2018. Judge Engelhardt is based in New Orleans, Louisiana, at the John Minor Wisdom U.S. Court of Appeals Building.

Judge Engelhardt was previously nominated for a seat on the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana by President George W. Bush, and upon confirmation, was officially sworn in as a United States District Judge on December 14, 2001. While a District Judge, Judge Engelhardt served by designation on nine different panels of the United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. On October 1, 2015, he became Chief United States District Court Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana, a position he held until joining the United States Fifth Circuit on May 15, 2018. Judge Engelhardt attended Brother Martin High School in New Orleans, where he graduated with honors in 1978. He attended Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, from which he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in history in 1982. In the Fall of 1982, Judge Engelhardt commenced his legal education at the Paul M. Hebert Law Center at Louisiana State University, graduating in May of 1985.

Judge Engelhardt served a two-year clerkship with Judge Charles Grisbaum, Jr. of the Louisiana Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal, located in Gretna, Louisiana. From there, he became associated with the Metairie law firm of Little, Metzger and Lamz (APLC), and worked in the downtown New Orleans office of that firm in 1988-89. He then joined the law firm of Hailey, McNamara, Hall, Larmann & Papale, became a partner in July 1998, and practiced there until his confirmation to the federal bench in December 2001.

In 1995, Judge Engelhardt was nominated for a spot on the nine-member Louisiana Judiciary Commission, and was appointed by the Governor to serve a four-year term on that body. In 1998, he was elected by his fellow commission members to serve as Chairman, in which capacity he presided over the Commission's trials of formal charges lodged against sitting state judges. His work on the Judiciary Commission has been cited for its excellence by the Louisiana Supreme Court.

Judge Engelhardt is a member of the Advisory Board of the New Orleans Chapter of The Federalist Society; a past member of the United States Judicial Conference Committee on Federal-State Jurisdiction; a member of the Board of Directors (and past president) of the New Orleans Chapter of the Federal Bar Association; a member of the American Judicature Society; and a member of the Federal Circuit Bar Association. He has served on the Fifth Circuit's Criminal Pattern Jury Instruction Committee, charged with updating and/or drafting pattern jury instructions for district judges within the jurisdiction of the United States Fifth Circuit. Recently, he was appointed by Fifth Circuit Chief Judge Carl Stewart to chair the Circuit's Judicial Impairment Protocol Committee, established to create a framework for the judiciary to internally address disabilities of all types which may impact a judge's ability to handle his/her docket.

Judge Engelhardt is also a member of the American Bar Association, Jefferson Bar Association, Louisiana State Bar Association, New Orleans Bar Association, and the Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity. Judge Engelhardt serves on the Board of Directors of the Cancer Association of Greater New Orleans.

## **Hon. James E. Graves**

Judge James E. Graves, Jr. was nominated by President Barack Obama on June 10, 2010, to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. His nomination was unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate on February 14, 2011. Upon nominating Judge Graves, President Obama said, "Throughout his career James E. Graves has shown unwavering integrity and an outstanding commitment to public service."

Judge Graves was born in Clinton, Mississippi. He earned his B.A. in sociology at Millsaps College. He worked in Mississippi's Department of Public Welfare for two years before

beginning law school. He then earned his law degree, as well as a master's degree in public administration at Syracuse University.

Upon graduation from law school, Judge Graves worked as a staff attorney with Central Mississippi Legal Services. He engaged in private practice in Jackson for three years before joining the Office of the Mississippi Attorney General as a Special Assistant Attorney General in the Health Law Division, and later served as head of the Human Services Division. He then joined the Mississippi Department of Human Services where he served as Director of the Division of Child Support Enforcement.

In 1991, Judge Graves was appointed as a circuit judge in Hinds County, where he served for ten years. In 2001, he was appointed to the Mississippi Supreme Court. He was elected to continue on the court in 2004. He served as a presiding justice from 2009 until 2011, when he joined the Fifth Circuit.

Judge Graves has served as an adjunct professor at Jackson State University, Millsaps College, and Tougaloo College. He taught courses in civil rights and media law as well as the sociology of law. He has also been a Teaching Team Member of the Harvard Law School's Trial Advocacy Workshop.

As the first African American from Mississippi to serve on the Fifth Circuit, Judge Graves was awarded the Mississippi Trailblazer of the Decade award—an award that recognizes Mississippians who have shown a commitment to racial, cultural, and gender diversity and who have presented Mississippi in a positive light.

Judge Graves was awarded the 2011 FBI Director's Community Leadership Award in recognition of his deep commitment to working with Mississippi youth. Other organizations have acknowledged Judge Graves' work with youth as well. In 2009, he was awarded the Maxwell Public Administration Award by Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, which recognizes alumni for exceptional work in public service. Millsaps College awarded him the Livesay Award in 2004 for his service to Millsaps College and the larger community. He was awarded the Humanized Education Award in 2002 by the Mississippi Association of Educators. He was Jackson Public School District's 2001 Parent of the Year and the First Alternate for Mississippi's Parent of the Year Award for 2001. In 1991, he was named Champion Adopter by the Lake Elementary School's Boys for a Brighter Tomorrow Program in honor of his mentoring.

## **Renee Knake**

Renee Knake holds the Doherty Chair in Legal Ethics and is a Professor of Law at the University of Houston Law Center. She regularly consults on matters related to lawyer/judicial ethics, innovation in legal services, gender diversity in leadership roles, and the first amendment and

lawyer speech. Professor Knake is an elected member of the American Law Institute, and served as the ABA Reporter for the Commission on the Future of Legal Services from 2014-16. An award-winning author of more than 20 scholarly articles and four books, her latest, *Shortlisted: Women in the Shadows of the Supreme Court*, will be published by New York University Press in 2020. Her work is regularly quoted in legal briefs and the media, including CNN, National Public Radio, and the Wall Street Journal.

## **Mark Little**

Mark Little represents clients in a broad range of appeals and original proceedings in federal and state courts across the country. He also works with trial counsel to formulate pre-trial strategies, write dispositive motions, prepare jury charges, and preserve error at trial.

Mark received his law degree from the University of Texas, where he graduated first in his class, was on the editorial board of the *Texas Law Review*, and won awards in trial advocacy and moot court competitions.

Before joining Baker Botts, Mark served as a law clerk to the Honorable J. Harvie Wilkinson III of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

## **Katerina Lewinbuk**

Professor Lewinbuk is a Professor of Law at South Texas College of Law in Houston, Texas where she teaches Professional Responsibility, Deposition Skills, Attorney-Client Disputes, Legal Profession in a Comparative Context and Legal Research & Writing (and also her new course titled “Mindful Lawyering”). Prior to that, she taught at DePaul University Law School in Chicago. Professor Lewinbuk has twice taught as a Fulbright Senior Specialist in Monterrey, Mexico and in Prague, and has taught legal courses in Moscow, Istanbul, the Republic of Georgia and other parts of the world. Professor Lewinbuk also served as Program Director/Course Advisor and taught at the International Law Institute in Washington, D.C. The program prepares international LL.M. students to enter law schools throughout the United States and it also provides an overview of the U.S. legal system to judges and practicing attorneys from all over the world. Prior to teaching, Professor Lewinbuk was an associate attorney at the Chicago office of Baker & McKenzie law firm and is licensed to practice law in Texas, Illinois and District of Columbia.



## **Shaundra Kellam Lewis**

Shaundra Lewis is a Professor of Law at Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University, where she teaches Criminal Law and Lawyering Process (Legal Writing). Previously, she was an Assistant Clinical Professor of Legal Writing at the University of Houston Law Center. She is the author of multiple published articles on compulsory campus carry legislation and the constitutional issues arising therefrom. Prior to joining the legal academy, Professor Lewis served as an appellate staff attorney for the Federal Public Defender's Office for the Central District of Illinois, an appellate staff attorney for the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, and an Assistant Public Defender in the Appellate Division of the Miami-Dade County's Public Defender's Office.

Professor Lewis graduated in the top five percent of her class from St. Thomas University School of Law in Miami, Florida, where she earned American Jurisprudence Awards for achieving the highest grade and rank in Constitutional Law I, Evidence, Wills and Trusts, Employment Discrimination, and the Appellate Litigation Clinic. She earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree in English at Stetson University in DeLand, Florida. To see Professor Lewis's complete biographical information, visit [http://www.tsulaw.edu/faculty/Shauldra\\_Kellam\\_Lewis.html](http://www.tsulaw.edu/faculty/Shauldra_Kellam_Lewis.html).

## **Judy Fulmer Madewell**

Judy Madewell is a Supervisory Assistant Federal Public Defender for the Western District of Texas; Appellate Section since 1998; Chief of Appellate Section since 2017; Branch Chief of San Antonio Office as of August 1, 2019. B.A. with Highest Honors and J.D. with Honors from University of Texas at Austin. Assistant District Attorney, Bexar County District Attorney's Office, Trial and Appellate Sections, 1995 to 1998. Briefing Attorney, Judge Sam Houston Clinton, Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, 1994 to 1995. Adjunct Professor of Law, St. Mary's Law School, since 2005.

## **Hilary Reed**

Hilary Reed is a Clinical Associate Professor of Lawyering Skills and Strategies at the University of Houston Law Center. Professor Reed teaches Lawyering Skills and Strategies at the University of Houston Law Center, brief writing to the moot court team, and also serves as writing faculty to students in UHLC's Pre-Law Pipeline Program. Prior to joining UH's faculty,

Reed was an Associate Professor of Legal Research and Writing at Pepperdine University School of Law in Malibu, California for a decade.

## **Pope Mallette**

Mr. Mallette is a founding partner of Mayo Mallette PLLC, in Oxford, Mississippi. The firm conducts a general litigation practice, and handles cases ranging from complex commercial and higher education litigation, to construction and employment law for corporate, institutional, and individual clients. Mallette has litigated cases in various federal and state courts at the trial and appellate levels. He has been the attorney for the City of Oxford, Mississippi, for the past 19 years, and conducts mediation in a variety of litigated matters.

Before beginning private practice, Mr. Mallette was a law clerk for the Honorable William H. Barbour, Jr., Chief District Judge for the Southern District of Mississippi, and for the Honorable E. Grady Jolly, of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. Mr. Mallette served as the Chair of the Labor and Employment Section of the Mississippi Bar, and the Chair of the Mississippi Municipal Attorneys Association. He currently serves on the Board of Governors for the Bar Association of the Fifth Federal Circuit, and is a Fellow with the Litigation Counsel of America.

## **Candice L. Rucker**

Candice Rucker joined the firm as a member of the Appellate and Litigation practice groups after clerking for Judge Leslie H. Southwick of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. Since then, Candice has handled appeals in federal and state court involving complex commercial disputes and significant issues of constitutional law. She has served as designated appellate counsel during trial and is experienced in crafting successful strategies for prevailing during the post-judgment and appellate phases of civil litigation. In addition to her appellate experience, Candice has managed cases from their inception by drafting complaints, managing written and document discovery, and preparing and arguing dispositive motions. She has successfully negotiated contentious settlement agreements and currently maintains a chapter on Alternative Dispute Resolution in the Mississippi Encyclopedia of Law.

Candice graduated from Mississippi College School of Law, where she served as executive editor of the Mississippi College Law Review and vice-chair of internal affairs for the Moot Court Board. As a member of the Moot Court Board, Candice competed in a variety of pretrial, trial and appellate competitions across the country. She won best plaintiffs' memorandum of law at the Stetson University's 2015 National Pretrial Competition and was recognized as best oralist at Pace University's 2016 National Environmental Law Competition.

Candice earned her bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Alabama, where she was recognized for maintaining the highest scholastic average in the College of Arts & Sciences for the Class of 2013.

## **Professor Lauren Jansen Simpson**

Lauren Simpson is a Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Houston Law Center, where she teaches Lawyering Skills and Strategies. She earned her B.A. (cum laude) in French and International Studies at Washington University and her J.D. (cum laude) from the University of Houston Law Center. After practicing at Meyer, Orlando & Evans, P.C., Professor Simpson served as a staff attorney for the First District Court of Appeals of Texas for over 13 years before entering academia. She is a spring 2016 recipient of the University of Houston Teaching Excellence Award (Instructor/Clinical category); one of three 2018 AALS Teachers of the Year selected by the Law Center; and the 2017, 2018, and 2019 Student Bar Association Professor of the Year for Law Center faculty teaching in the part-time program (co-recipient in 2019). She recently received an Outstanding Service Award from the Association of Legal Writing Directors (ALWD) for work as Chair of the 2018-19 ALWD By-Laws Committee.

## **Macey Reasoner Stokes**

Macey Stokes heads Baker Botts' Appellate Section, which *U.S. News & World Report* ranks Tier One in the National, Austin, Dallas and Houston categories in *Best Lawyers in America*, and which *Chambers USA* lists as Band One in Texas. Over her 25-year career, she has handled a wide variety of civil appeals and extraordinary proceedings in both state and federal court, with extensive experience in energy litigation, and has frequently provided appellate assistance at trial in complex, high-stakes litigation.

Macey has been Board Certified in Civil Appellate Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization since 1998.

She serves as President-elect and Secretary of the Bar Association of the Fifth Federal Circuit and is an Executive Committee Member, Trustee, and Past President of the Texas Supreme Court Historical Society, as well as a fellow of the American Law Institute and a Past Chair of the Appellate Section of the State Bar of Texas.

## **Aaron Streett**

Aaron Streett is the Chairman of Baker Botts' Supreme Court and Constitutional Law Practice. He has presented oral argument in dozens of appeals, covering the U.S. Supreme Court and courts around the country—including 20 arguments in the Fifth Circuit alone. Mr. Streett's practice involves all substantive areas of the law, including commercial litigation, statutory interpretation, constitutional law, administrative law, securities, and jurisdictional issues. Mr. Streett maintains an active practice in the Supreme Court of the United States, having represented parties in merits cases six times since 2010, as well as filing numerous amicus and certiorari-stage briefs. Mr. Streett is one of only two Texas-based lawyers to be ranked both statewide and nationally in Appellate Law by *Chambers USA* (2019). Following graduation from law school, Mr. Streett served as a law clerk to the Honorable David B. Sentelle of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit and to the Honorable William H. Rehnquist, Chief Justice of the United States.

## **Walter Woodruff**

Walter Woodruff is a native and lifelong resident of New Orleans. Since graduating Loyola Law School in 1997, he has practiced law in the Greater New Orleans area with a focus on litigation and appellate advocacy. He has handled and argued numerous appeals before the Fifth Federal Circuit in a variety of cases involving wideranging and complex legal issues. Since 2007, he has served as the editor of the Bar Association of the Fifth Federal Circuit's Daily Commentary. He has participated in the Bar Association's speaker program addressing an array of topics related to appellate practice before the Fifth Circuit. As a member of the Knights of Columbus, he has volunteered and served in a variety of leadership roles in charitable fundraising.