

KELLY HART

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

LESLIE RITCHIE ROBNETT Associate

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BIOGRAPHY

Leslie Ritchie Robnett is a sixth-generation Texas attorney specializing in complex civil litigation at both the trial and appellate levels. Prior to joining the firm, Ms. Robnett maintained an active administrative and commercial law practice in Austin, Texas, where she regularly represented clients before various state and federal agencies and the Texas Legislature in addition to state and federal trial and appellate courts.

Prior to studying law, Ms. Robnett worked as Chief of Staff to Chief of Staff to Representative Phil King (R, Weatherford), former Chairman of the Texas House Committee on Regulated Industries during the deregulation of the electric and telecom industries. After law school, Ms. Robnett worked as an associate in the Austin offices of both the Public Law and Litigation/Appellate section of Andrews Kurth Kenyon LLP and the Litigation/Public Affairs Section of Gardere Wynne Sewell, LLP. As a result of her time in Austin, Ms. Robnett developed special expertise in administrative appeals and state and federal administrative procedure.

Additionally, Ms. Robnett worked as a briefing attorney to Justice Paul W. Green on the Texas Supreme Court following graduation from law school. She also clerked for former Chief Justice Linda B. Thomas on the Fifth Court of Appeals in Dallas, Texas and Justice Phil Johnson on the Texas Supreme Court.

Ms. Robnett graduated from the University of Texas School of Law, with high honors, in 2008 where she served as Editor-in-Chief and Co-Founder of the *Texas Journal of Oil, Gas & Energy Law*. She earned her B.S., with highest honors, from the University of Texas.

EXPERIENCE AND HIGHLIGHTS

- Currently defending multi-million dollar judgment in favor of client insurance adjusting agency in Fifth Circuit appeal after obtaining successful 12(b) dismissal of tort claims and trying competing contract claims in United States District Court for the Western District of Texas—San Antonio Division in *IAS Services Group, LLC v. Jim Buckley & Associates, Inc.*, CV SA-14-CA-180-FB (W.D. Tex. 2016)
- Represented national conglomeration of air ambulance providers in complex administrative appeals before the State Office of Administrative Hearings and Travis County District Court
- Represented international telecommunications company before both Texas Department of Insurance and Texas Legislature in passing legislation allowing companies to create captive insurance companies in Texas

- Defended national bank in confirmation of arbitration award in the United States District Court Western District of Texas—Austin Division; represented client in Fifth Circuit appeal of the confirmation in *21st Century Financial Services LLC v. Manchester Financial Bank*, No. 13-50389 (5th Cir. 2013)
- Obtained favorable multi-million-dollar jury verdict in complex trade secret litigation on behalf of commercial mineral developer and holder of mining technology patents; successfully defended appeal that upheld an unprecedented compilation trade secret jury instruction in *Bishop v. Miller*, 412 S.W.3d 758 (Tex. App.—Houston [14th Dist.] 2013, no pet)
- Successfully obtained Texas Supreme Court reversal of jury verdict in trespass/easement litigation on behalf of client utility company. Resulted in rendition of judgment in favor of client in *Etan Indus., Inc. v. Lehmann*, 359 S.W.3d 620 (Tex. 2011)

AFFILIATIONS AND HONORS

- Texas Rising Star, Texas Monthly, 2012-2016
 - [Featured Attorney, Super Lawyers Magazine, cover and full-length profile, 2013](#)
- Texas Cultural Trust, Texas Women for the Arts
 - Austin Meeting Host Committee, 2017
- Austin Bar Association, Civil Appellate Section Board of Directors, 2016-2017
- Austin Bar Association, Civil Litigation Section Board of Directors
 - Chair, 2014-2015
 - Vice Chair, 2013-2014
 - Treasurer, 2012-2013
- Texas Supreme Court Historical Society, Greenhill Fellow
- The University of Texas System Chancellor's Council
- Dress for Success-Austin, Board of Directors, 2013-2017
- St. David's Foundation Community Fund, Neil Kocurek Scholarship Toast of the Town, 2014-present
- Advisory Council, Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation, Stewards of the Wild Austin Division
- Texas Bar Foundation, Fellow
- Austin Bar Foundation, Fellow
- Pro Bono College of the State Bar of Texas

EDUCATION

- University of Texas School of Law, J.D., with highest honors, 2008
 - *Texas Journal of Oil, Gas & Energy Law*, Editor-in-Chief and Co-Founder
- University of Texas, B.S., with highest honors, 2004

ADMISSIONS

- State Bar of Texas, 2008
- Western District of Texas
- Northern District of Texas