



## **J. Heath Coffman**

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### **Practices**

Litigation

Intellectual Property

Professional Liability  
Defense

Creditor Rights

Appellate

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### **Education**

**J.D.** Baylor University  
School of Law, 2007,  
*cum laude*

**B.A.** Texas Christian  
University, 2004, *summa  
cum laude*, Phi Beta  
Kappa

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### **Bar Admissions**

State of Texas, 2007

U.S. Court of Appeals,  
Fifth Circuit

**Heath Coffman** has significant experience representing a wide range of clients from individuals and small businesses to large publicly-traded companies in a variety of business and commercial cases and arbitrations. His practice includes representing attorneys and accountants in professional liability cases and in grievance matters. He frequently handles complex commercial litigation involving intellectual property, trade secrets, fraud, breach of contract, breach of employment agreement, and oil and gas cases in both federal and state district and appellate courts, including the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. In addition, he works with a variety of creditors and agencies in collections disputes and litigation. Mr. Coffman also assists clients in protecting intellectual property rights before the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Trademark Trial and Appeal Board, and the United States Copyright Office.

Mr. Coffman was a member of the Texas Uniform Trade Secrets Act Working Group of the State Bar of Texas Intellectual Property and Business Law Sections. He was instrumental in researching and drafting the proposed legislation and preparing the bill analysis in support of the adoption of the Texas Uniform Trade Secrets Act. In 2016, Mr. Coffman was named chair of the Trade Secrets Committee of the Intellectual Property Section of the State Bar of Texas. As part of his work on that Committee, he helped draft the 2017 amendments to the Texas Uniform Trade Secrets Act.

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U.S. District Court,  
Northern District of  
Texas

U.S. District Court,  
Eastern District of Texas

U.S. District Court,  
Southern District of  
Texas

U.S. District Court,  
Western District of  
Texas

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### **Memberships**

State Bar of Texas

Tarrant County Bar  
Association

Tarrant County Young  
Lawyers Association

Bar Association of the  
Fifth Federal Circuit

Defense Research  
Institute (Professional  
Liability Committee)

Claims and Litigation  
Management Alliance  
(Professional Liability  
Committee)

Texas Association of  
Defense Counsel

Mr. Coffman was recognized by Thomson Reuters in Texas Monthly in 2018 as a Super Lawyer and in 2017 as a Rising Star, signifying a high degree of peer recognition and achievement in his practice area.

Mr. Coffman was chosen by his peers for inclusion in the List of Top Attorneys from 2011-2014 and 2017 for Intellectual Property in *Fort Worth, Texas Magazine*, and as a Top Attorney in 2015-2017 for Professional Malpractice (Non-Medical) Defense in *Fort Worth, Texas Magazine*. Mr. Coffman's peers chose him as a top attorney for Professional Malpractice (Non-Medical) Defense and for Civil Law and Litigation in *360 West Magazine* in 2017.

Mr. Coffman frequently writes about commercial litigation and intellectual property issues on his blog, *The Fort Worth Business and Employment Law Reporter*  
[www.fwlawreporter.com](http://www.fwlawreporter.com)

### **Professional Recognition**

Super Lawyer For Intellectual Property by *Thompson Reuters, Texas Monthly* (2018)

Texas Rising Star for Intellectual Property by *Thomson Reuters, Texas Monthly* (2017)

List of Top Attorneys for Intellectual Property in *Fort Worth, Texas Magazine* (2011-2014, 2017)

List of Top Attorneys for Professional Malpractice (Non-Medical) Defense in *Fort Worth, Texas Magazine* (2015-2017)

List of Top Attorneys for Professional Malpractice (Non-Medical) Defense in *360 West Magazine* (2017)

List of Top Attorneys for Civil Law and Litigation in *360 West Magazine* (2017)

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Jerry L. Beane Award for Excellence in Writing, *Baylor Law Review*

Chair, Trade Secrets Committee, Intellectual Property Section, State Bar of Texas (2016-present)

Barrister, Eldon B. Mahon Inn of Court (2013-2016)

### **Experience**

*MGE UPS Systems, Inc. v. GE Consumer and Industrial, Inc.*, 612 F.3d 760 (5th Cir. 2010)

Successfully defended General Electric in a \$100 million Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA), copyright infringement, and misappropriation of trade secrets case involving commercial software for sophisticated business equipment.

*Arkoma Basin Project, L.P. v. West Fork Energy Co., LLC, et al.*, 2010 WL 2711086 (5th Cir. 2010)

Obtained and defended on appeal a take nothing judgment in a multi-million dollar securities fraud and breach of contract case involving the oil and gas industry.

*Weaver and Tidwell, LLP v. The Guaranty Company of North America*, 427 S.W. 3d 559 (Tex. App.—Dallas, 2014, pet. Denied)

Successfully defended major accounting firm in a \$2 million professional negligence case.

*Buxton Co. v. Cavin*, 342nd Judicial District Court, Tarrant County, Texas (2013)

Successfully defended programmer and a site selection company in a misappropriation of trade secrets case involving source code for analytic software.

*Southern Holdings LLC v. Country Coach, Inc.*, State Office of Administrative Hearings

Successfully obtained judgment against the manufacturer of a defective recreational vehicle.

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*Dean McMullen v. Lasko Products, Inc.*, (E.D. Tex. 2010)  
Successfully defended a products liability lawsuit against a fan manufacturer.

*J&V Communications Services, Inc. v. Weaver and Tidwell, LLP*, American Arbitration Association  
Obtained a take nothing judgment and an award of over \$700,000 in attorneys' fees in a professional negligence case involving accountants.

### **Publications**

Coffman, J. H., *et al.*, "2017 Texas Trade Secrets Update," Institute for Law and Technology 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Intellectual Property Law (November 13, 2017).

Cleveland, J. and Coffman, J.H., "Trade Secrets: Outlining New Amendments to the Texas Uniform Trade Secrets Act," 80 Tex. B.J. 526 (August 2017).

Coffman, J.H., "Protecting Your Startup Client's Intellectual Property and Client Relationships: The Intersection of Trade Secrets, Confidentiality Agreements, and Covenants Not to Compete," State Bar of Texas 2017 Intellectual Property Law Workshop: IP Issues with Technology Start Ups. (February 22, 2017)

Coffman, J. H. and Cleveland, J., "Protecting Trade Secrets Made Simple: How the Recently Enacted Texas Uniform Trade Secrets Act Provides a Legislative Framework for Litigating Cases," Texas Bar Journal (September 2013)

Coffman, J. H. and Cleveland, Jr., "The Texas Uniform Trade Secrets Act," 45 Tex. J. of Business Law 322 (Fall 2013)

Coffman, J. H. and Cleveland, J., "Should Texas Adopt the Uniform Trade Secrets Act?" News for the Bar, State Bar of Texas, Litigation Section (Spring 2013)

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Coffman, J. H. and Cleveland, J., “Texas Adopts Uniform Trade Secrets Act,” Fort Worth Business Press (August 2013)

Coffman, J. H. and Cleveland, J., “Protecting Your Companies Trade Secrets,” Fort Worth Business Press (May 2009)

Coffman, J. H. “A Look at the New Texas Constitution Article I, section 11B,” 59 Baylor Law Review 241 (2007)

### **Presentations**

*The Road to the Courthouse: Court Hierarchy, Appeals, Jurisdiction*, Texas Independent Insurance Adjusters Association

*Protecting Your Company’s Trade Secrets*, Intellectual Property Section of the Tarrant County Bar Association

*Avoiding the Litigation Target: Best Practices to Meet Your Fiduciary Duty and Stay Out of the Courtroom, Crosshairs*, Various Texas Society of Certified Professional Accountants Chapters

*Trade Secrets Law for the Professional Landman*, Fort Worth Association of Professional Landmen

*Protecting Your Startup Client’s Intellectual Property and Client Relationships: The Intersection of Trade Secrets, Confidentiality Agreements, and Covenants Not to Compete*, State Bar of Texas Intellectual Property Law Workshop: IP Issues with Technology Start Ups. (February 22, 2017)

*2017 Texas Trade Secrets Update*, Institute for Law and Technology 55<sup>TH</sup> Annual Conference on Intellectual Property Law (November 13, 2017)

### **Community**

Director, CASA of Tarrant County

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Director, Child Study Center

Leading Edge Fort Worth (2014)

Co-Chair, Texas Christian University Class of 2004 Gift  
Committee

Leadership Fort Worth Leadership Class (2016)