



**Stephen W. Drinnon**  
Of Counsel

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**Practice Areas:**

- General Civil Litigation with significant experience in:
  - Personal Injury - Catastrophic traumatic brain injury and wrongful death
  - Business Torts and complex commercial cases

**Practice Emphasis**

Stephen is Of Counsel in the general civil and commercial litigation practice groups of Cowles & Thompson. For 25 years, Stephen has leveraged his CPA and CEO/CFO experience as a lead litigator, successfully defending high-value cases across a range of legal practices. He has handled cases for both the Defense and Plaintiff sides of the bar, gaining experience and extra skills used to anticipate and understand the legal strategy and intricacies of each side, and has litigated cases in many different states applying various states' laws. Moreover, a vast majority of Mr. Drinnon's trial experience was earned in federal courts.

Stephen's defense work began with vehicle collision and medical malpractice matters. It then developed to routinely involve complex commercial disputes, including leading NYSE-500 parties and catastrophic traumatic brain injury (TBI) cases with life care plans exceeding \$60 million in financial damages. He successfully defended such injury cases and wrongful death cases on behalf of American manufacturers of children's products in Texas and across the nation with a federal jurisdiction emphasis.

On the plaintiff's side, Stephen gained national prominence with the initial filing of claims against a world-wide pharmaceutical giant on behalf of the family of a victim whose death was caused by a diabetes drug. Stephen's trial experience encompasses employment law case wins, firearm litigation in numerous states and federal court jurisdiction and venue.

**Representative Matters**

- As lead Defense litigator, obtained summary judgment in a personal injury, wrongful death case of a child in federal district court in Houston, Texas, and defended the judgment in the 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals, which resulted in costs-only settlement while on appeal.
- As lead Plaintiff litigator, obtained favorable verdict and settlement two weeks into trial in two employment discrimination cases tried in Dallas, Texas against a New York Stock Exchange Index-listed communications company with 300,000 employees based in Dallas, Texas.
- As lead Plaintiff litigator, obtained a default judgment in District Court in Nolan County, Texas, and defended the default judgment after removal to the U.S. District Court Northern Division of Texas with creation and novel use of the *alter ego* theory that was upheld on appeal by the U.S. 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals.
- As a commercial litigator, pursued a trademark infringement case (LANHAM Act) claim against a national and international tennis shoe manufacturer, a professional basketball association, a professional basketball team, and a prominent professional basketball player in Federal Court, Portland, Oregon.

## Representative Presentations and Papers Authored

- “Strategic Defense of Product Recalls at Trial,” presenter, Products Liability Conference, February, 2005.
- “Product Recalls as Subsequent Remedial Measures and the Use of Federal Rule of Evidence 407 in Products Liability Cases,” author, DRI Products Liability Conference, February, 2005.
- “Product Recalls as Subsequent Remedial Measures and the Use of Federal Rule of Evidence 407 in Products Liability Cases,” author and presenter, DRI Products Liability Conference, Children’s Products Closed Door Session, 2004.
- “Preemption after *Geir*,” presenter, Juvenile Product Manufacturer’s Meeting, October 2002.
- “*Grader v. General Motors* Mock Trial,” presenter, Juvenile Product Manufacturer’s Meeting, October 2002.
- “What a Difference a Forum Can Make,” presenter, Juvenile Product Manufacturer’s Meeting, October 2001.
- “Upgrading Federal Safety Standards for Child Restraint Systems Post-TREAD,” author, May 2002.
- “Side Impact Protection Rulemaking Proposed Post-TREAD,” author, May 2002.

## Education

- J.D., with highest honors, Texas Tech University School of Law, 1992
- B.B.A. Accounting, B.B.A. Management, Texas Tech University, 1981

## Court Admissions & Licenses

- Texas Supreme Court, 1992
- Supreme Court of the United States of America
- U.S. 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas
- U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas
- C.P.A. Texas State Board of Public Accountancy, 1982

## Awards and Honors

- **Texas Tech University School of Law**  
Mr. Drinnon distinguished himself while studying law at Texas Tech University on numerous occasions. He graduated second in a class of 147 with highest honors in 1992. Among many awards and recognitions of academic achievement, he received the coveted American Jurisprudence Award on six occasions for the following: Federal Evidence, Federal Jurisdiction, Commercial Law, Wills & Trusts, Criminal Law, and Martial Property. He also received recognition as highest grade in Oil & Gas Law and Commercial Torts. Mr. Drinnon was honored as an associate editor of the *Texas Tech Law Review* for two years and a member of *The Order of the Coif*.

## Memberships

- State Bar of Texas
- Dallas Bar Association
- Texas Society of CPAs