

**Claire E. James**

Associate

214-672-2115

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Practice Areas:

- Commercial/Business Litigation
- Family Law
- Appellate

Practice Emphasis

Claire James is an Associate in the Plano office of Cowles & Thompson, and practices in the firm's Commercial/Business Litigation, Family Law, and Appellate sections. In her commercial litigation practice, Claire focuses on representing small businesses and their owners. She regularly represents clients in disputes involving business dissolutions, breach of contract actions, collection matters, landlord-tenant issues, and construction litigation. Claire also has experience representing clients in arbitration, having defended multiple businesses in complex contract arbitrations.

About fifty-percent of Claire's practice is devoted to family law, including divorce, division of property, child custody, child support, and post-divorce modification as well as enforcement and contempt actions, and issues related to same-sex marriage and relationship dissolution. Claire is skilled at walking her clients through the family court process with a mixture of compassion and tenacity. As a former Child Protective Services Worker, Claire is uniquely well-suited to cases involving child safety issues, family violence, and other disputed custody matters. She practices throughout the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, including Collin, Dallas, Tarrant, and Denton counties.

Claire lives in Richardson and is married with a son, a daughter, and two dogs.

Representative Matters

- Drafted successful Motion for Summary Judgment that was granted in favor of commercial landlord client and later upheld on appeal (2016)
- Obtained Summary Judgment in favor of business client defending against insurance company in which the court initially granted default judgment in favor of the insurance company (2016)
- Secured temporary restraining order and, ultimately, primary possession of child for father in case involving child safety (2016)
- Represented client in child custody dispute related to same-sex relationship dissolution in which client was given primary possession of children (2015)
- Drafted appellate briefing for anonymous blogger in successful mandamus proceeding before the Texas Supreme Court (*In re Doe a/k/a "Trooper"*, 444 S.W.3d 603 (Tex. 2014)) (2013)
- Represented father in successfully dissolving Temporary Restraining Order and obtaining final order giving client primary possession of children in disputed child custody case involving child safety allegations (2013)

Recent Publications

- ["Ninth Court of Appeals Rules Presumption of Parenthood Does Not Apply to Same-Sex Married Couples,"](#) May 2017
- "Alimony' is Strictly Limited by the Texas Family Code," Cowles & Thompson Newsletter, Dec. 2016

- “Fort Worth Court of Appeals Considers Parental Rights of Sperm Donor,” *Reverse & Render* blog, Dec. 12, 2016
- “The Intersection of the Anonymous Right to Free Speech, The Texas Citizens Participation Act, and Rule 202 Pre-Suit Discovery,” *Reverse & Render*, Oct. 25, 2016
- “Show Me the Money – Divorce and Constructive Fraud in Texas,” Cowles & Thompson Newsletter, Oct. 20, 2016
- “Texas Anti-SLAPP Commercial Speech Exemption Does Not Apply to Blogger’s Statements about Wedding Photographer,” *Reverse & Render* blog, Aug. 22, 2016
- “Protecting Your Business from Divorce,” Cowles & Thompson Newsletter, Dec. 2015
- Writer in Residence for *Ms. JD*, 2015
- “Internet Torts: What are the Limits of Personal Jurisdiction?” *Dallas Bar Association Headnotes*, Aug. 2015
- “Attorney Speech, What Lawyers Can and Can’t Say; Handling Bar Grievances and Other Disciplinary Actions; Confidentiality, Loyalty, and the Attorney-Client Privilege,” materials for National Business Institute CLE, Dec. 31, 2012
- “Tax Exempt Organizations from Start to Finish,” papers and materials for National Business Institute presentation, materials for National Business Institute CLE, 2011

Education

- J.D., *cum laude*, Southern Methodist University, 2012
- B.S., Psychology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2005

Admissions

- State Bar of Texas, 2012

Awards and Honors

- *SMU Law Review Association*, Articles Editor, 2010-2012
- SMU Dean’s Scholarship Recipient, 2009-2012
- Best Brief Nominee, 2009

Memberships

- Texas Bar Association (Family Law & Litigation Sections)
- Dallas Bar Association (Family Law & Litigation Sections)
- Dallas Association of Young Lawyers
- Teen Court, mentor, Wylie, Texas