



**Lené DeRudder**  
Senior Counsel

214-672-2139  
LADerudder@cowlesthompson.com

**Practice Areas**

- Family Law
  - Divorce
  - Collaborative Divorce
- Commercial/Business Litigation



**Practice Emphasis**

Senior Counsel Lené Alley DeRudder is a collaboratively trained divorce attorney with strong litigation skills. She takes a strategic approach to problem solving and helping guide clients to resolution – both inside and outside of the courtroom. She focuses on highly complex divorces – specifically those involving high-value and/or extensive property issues, as well as contentious family law matters. A respected and recognized leader in the family law community, Lené has appeared as a guest on broadcast television and radio nationwide. She primarily practices in Collin, Dallas, and Denton counties.

**Representative Matters**

- Represented numerous high net-worth clients in divorces that involved marital assets and estates at or above \$5 million in value, and obtained disproportionate divisions of property for clients.
- Represented numerous clients in complex divorces where multiple business entities were involved, including entities formed for purposes of real estate investment.
- Obtained exclusive right to designate primary residence for mother in highly contentious matter where custody evaluation was in favor of the father.
- Obtained exclusive right to designate primary residence for a father in week-long jury trial in Collin County.
- Obtained a reversal and remand on appeal in termination of a father’s parental rights.
- Successful and extensive track record of obtaining favorable results for clients in informal and formal settlement.

**Publications and Speaking Engagements**

- **"Unwinding a Healthy Marital Estate: Where to Begin,"** author, Cowles and Thompson *Business and Legal Update*, July 2021.
- The Impact of COVID-19 on Divorce, guest appearance, WFAA-TV Ch. 8, Dallas, TX, April, and September 2020.
- **Faith, Politics, and Marriage;** guest appearance, BEONDTV talk show, KDOC-TV, Los Angeles, CA, 2019.
- "The Anatomy of an Inventory and Appraisal: What, Why, & How," author, *Dallas Bar Association Headnotes*, September 2019.
- "Update on Military Divorce Law and Primer," panelist, State Bar of Texas Webcast, August 2017.

- “Money Makes Your Practice Go Round – Strategic Operational Considerations,” co-presenter, Collin County Bar Association 6th Annual Making Your Practice Work CLE, January 29, 2015.
- “Attorney’s Fees: Five Cases You Must Know. Getting Them, Fighting Them, the Ins and Outs,” presenter, University of Texas School of Law 2014 Trial Skills Training Camp CLE, May 2, 2014.
- “Guarding Against Scams and Violence,” Presenter, Collin County Bar Association’s 4th Annual Making Your Practice Work CLE, January 17, 2013.
- “Ten Notable Lessons from My (Almost) Two Years of Practice,” author, DAYL Dicta, February 2012 and TYLA Newsletter, March 2012.
- Feature, Technology Page, *Texas Bar Journal*, February 2012.
- “Blocking & Tackling: Interviews/Resumes/Social Media,” panelist, State Bar of Texas Webcast, November 2010.

### Education

- J.D., Texas A&M University School of Law, 2010
  - Dean’s List Honor, Fall 2009
  - 2009 ABA Arbitration Traveling Team
  - 2008 Pepperdine National Entertainment Law Moot Court Traveling Team
  - 2008 ABA Mock Trial Traveling Team
  - 2007 ABA Labor and Employment Mock Trial Traveling Team (semi-finalist)
- B.A., Political Science, Appalachian State University, 1998

### Admissions

- State Bar of Texas, 2010

### Memberships

- State Bar of Texas
- Dallas Bar Association
- Collin County Bar Association
  - Past President, July 2020-Present
  - President, July 2019-June 2020
- Collaborative Divorce Texas, 2018-Present
- Collin County Women Lawyers Association
- Texas Family Law Foundation
- Annette Stewart American Inn of Court, 2015-Present
- Golden Corridor Republican Women
  - President Elect, 2021
- Legal Aid of Northwest Texas (volunteer)
- Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas (volunteer)

### Honors

- *Texas Rising Stars*<sup>®</sup>, Thomson Reuters *Super Lawyers*<sup>®</sup>; selected for inclusion, 2014-2020
- “One to Watch,” Dallas Association of Young Lawyers, January 2013
- MacLean & Boulware Award, December 2009