



COWLES THOMPSON

ATTORNEYS | COUNSELORS



Lené DeRudder
Shareholder

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Practice Areas

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



Practice Emphasis

Lené Alley DeRudder is an equity Shareholder and experienced family and divorce attorney with a successful record of positive outcomes for her clients. Lené focuses on complex divorce matters and high-net-worth estates, especially where multiple business entities are involved.

As a collaboratively trained attorney, Lené is thrilled to offer a different way to divorce. Although a veteran litigator who has tried multiple family law matters to jury, Lené is an advocate of the Collaborative Divorce process because it places control in her clients' hands, not with a court.

Regardless whether a matter requires traditional litigation or the collaborative process, Lené is strategic in her approach, tenacious in her advocacy, and mindful of obtaining resolution while reducing as much emotional, mental, and financial damage as possible. As 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

- Successfully obtained summary judgment confirming business entities as client's separate property.
- Represented numerous high-net-worth clients in divorces that involved marital assets and estates at or above \$5 million and obtained disproportionate divisions of property for clients.
- Successfully reversed supervised restriction on father's possession.
- Obtained favorable outcome in jury trial where client was awarded sole conservatorship, opposing party was awarded supervised possession, and client received disproportionate division of property.
- 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 after a week-long jury trial.
- Obtained a reverse and remand on appeal in termination of a father's parental rights.

Publications and Speaking Engagements

- [“What is Professionalism in Family Law?”](#) interviewee, The Melinda Eitzen Show podcast, May 2025
- [“Collaborative Divorce: A Better Alternative to Divorce,”](#) author, Cowles and Thompson *Business and Legal Update*, June 2023
- [“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 Appraisement: 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
- State Bar of New York, 2025
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas

Memberships

Law-related:

- Annette Stewart American Inn of Court
- Collaborative Divorce Texas
- Collin County Bar Association, Member and Past President
- Collin County Women Lawyers Association
- Dallas Bar Association
- International Academy of Collaborative Professionals
 - Ethics and Standards Committee, member
- Legal Aid of Northwest Texas, Volunteer Attorney
- State Bar of Texas
- Dallas Association of Young Lawyers Leadership Class, 2012 Graduate
- Dallas Bar Association Trial Academy, 2011 Graduate

Civic / Political:

- Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas, Volunteer
- Golden Corridor Republican Women, Vice-President Membership (current), President (past)
- Texas Federation of Republican Women, Legal Counsel Chair
- Twin Creeks Homeowners Association, Sports Committee Member
- Prince of Peace Catholic Community, Parishioner
- Allen-Fairview Chamber of Commerce Leadership Class XXVI, 2015 Graduate

Honors

- Dallas Association of Young Lawyers Foundation, Life Fellow
- Texas Bar Foundation, Fellow
- *Texas Rising Stars*®, Thomson Reuters *Super Lawyers*®; selected for inclusion, 2014-2020
- The College of the State Bar of Texas 2012 - 2021
- "One to Watch," Dallas Association of Young Lawyers, January 2013
- MacLean & Boulware Award, December 2009