

Stephanie Laird Tolson

Houston, TX

She/Her

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About Stephanie

With more than three decades of experience, Stephanie focuses her practice on commercial litigation at the state and federal levels, in bankruptcy, and before appellate courts. She represents financial institutions in litigation involving commercial loans and construction companies and engineers in construction-defect and commercial litigation. Additionally, she serves as outside general counsel for a construction company.

Stephanie represents national lenders, credit card processing companies, floor plan lenders, loan servicers, and premium finance companies in litigation, bankruptcy, and restructuring matters. She regularly advises clients on adversary proceedings – including representing creditors in Chapter 7 and Chapter 11 bankruptcy. She also advises oil and gas companies, automotive and heavy equipment manufacturers, and individuals on these matters.

In addition to her litigation practice, Stephanie provides day-to-day legal advice to heavy industrial construction companies and manufacturers, drafting and negotiating master contracts and purchase orders, and handling lien and payment issues. As outside general counsel, Stephanie advises on contracts, commercial collections, lien resolution, and insurance-related issues, as well as personal injury and workers' compensation claims, payment disputes, and general commercial litigation.

She also represents manufacturing and construction industry participants in litigation, including in contract disputes and construction defects matters, in appellate cases at the state and federal levels, and before administrative agencies in Texas.

Stephanie's Affiliations

- State Bar of Texas
- Southwestern Association of Bank Counsel, Board of Directors

Areas of Focus

Industries: Automotive Financial Services; Banking & Financial Institutions; Construction;
Consumer Financial Services; Financial Services; Manufacturing

Services: Appellate; Bankruptcy, Workout Strategic Planning & Restructuring;
Complex Commercial Litigation ; Litigation & Trial

Experience

- Obtained a \$0 judgment for an engineering firm, in a high-stakes lawsuit involving a faulty HVAC system at an assisted living facility, where the plaintiffs sought \$82 million in damages. The Hinshaw legal team skillfully navigated the complexities of the case, effectively eliminating all direct claims against our client. We proceeded to trial on a cross-claim in collaboration with the building's architect, demonstrating the strength of our defense strategy.

Recognition

- *Martindale-Hubbell, AV® Peer Review Rating*

Credentials

Education

Texas Tech University School of Law, JD, 1992

Texas Tech University, BA, 1988

Bar Admissions

Texas

Court Admissions

US Supreme Court

US Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit

US District Court for the Eastern District of Texas

US District Court for the Northern District of Texas

US District Court for the Southern District of Texas

US District Court for the Western District of Texas

US Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Texas
US Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Texas
US Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Texas
US Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Texas

Interests

Did you know...

A huge baseball fan, Stephanie is loyal to the Houston Astros.

Community/Civic Activities

- BARC Animal Shelter and Adoptions, Volunteer
- Houston Food Bank, Volunteer
- St. Thomas High School, Mom's Club; Baseball Team Mom; Tom's Moms, Member; St. Thomas Round-up, Volunteer
- Texas Tech Alumni Association
- State Bar of Texas, *Pro Bono* Program
- Women's Business Enterprise Alliance, Board of Directors, Former Member

Thought Leadership

Presentations

- Co-Presenter, "Lender Liability – Handle with Care, Managing Your Way Through Special Assets," Risk Management Association (RMA) Gulf Coast Chapter, Webinar, April 10, 2024
- Co-Presenter, "Lessons from Lubbock — The Reagor Dykes Case," Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP, Virtual Event, September 19, 2023
- Co-Presenter, "Commercial – Tips to Avoid UCC Traps," 2023 Auto Finance Seminar: Driving Ahead: Auto Finance Insights from Industry Leaders, Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP, Chicago, Illinois, May 4, 2023
- Panelist, "Nurturing the Next Generation in Legal," Driving Diversity In Law & Leadership Conference, Houston, Texas, April 27, 2022
- Co-Presenter, "Handle With Care: Managing Your Way Through Special Assets," Annual Conference by Southwest Association Bank Counsel and Texas Bankers Association, San Antonio, Texas, October 7, 2021
- Co-Presenter, "Out of Trust - Out of Business: Automobile Lien Priorities in Troubled Dealer Situations," 2019 Consumer Finance Legal Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana, October 15, 2019

Events

- Stewart Spielman and Stephanie Tolson to Co-Present at a Risk Management Association Gulf Coast Chapter's Virtual Event on Navigating Lender Liability, Apr 10, 2024
- Lessons from Lubbock — The Reagor Dykes Case, Tuesday, September 19, 2023
- Driving Ahead: Auto Finance Insights from Industry Leaders, Thursday, May 4, 2023
- Stephanie Tolson to Speak at Driving Diversity In Law & Leadership Conference, Apr 27, 2022

Hinshaw Alert

- A Primer on Changes Made to the Texas Mechanic's and Materialman's Liens Act, Effective January 1, 2022, Dec 28, 2021

Press Releases

- 102 Hinshaw Lawyers Recognized in 2026 Editions of *The Best Lawyers in America*® and *Ones to Watch*™, Aug 21, 2025
- Stephanie Laird Tolson Elected to Southwest Association of Bank Counsel Board of Directors, Sep 19, 2022
- Hinshaw Bolsters Gulf Coast Presence with Two Houston Partners, Dec 17, 2020