



Cheryl Joseph LaFond

PARTNER

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Overview

Cheryl represents individuals and corporate clients in high-stakes commercial disputes. She has represented clients in all types of business disputes, including breach of contract, non-competition, breach of fiduciary duty, fraud, usurpation of corporate opportunity, and trade secret cases. Cheryl has also defended enforcement actions, across a range of substantive areas, brought by the Attorney General of Texas.

Born and raised in Austin, Cheryl graduated *summa cum laude* from the University of Texas at Austin (Plan II Honors and Business Honors). She received her J.D. from Stanford Law School, where she served as Executive Editor of the Stanford Law Review. Prior to joining the firm, Cheryl was a law clerk for the Honorable Patrick Higginbotham of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit and practiced with Williams & Connolly LLP.

Experience

Though all cases vary, and none is predictive, Cheryl's experience includes:

- Defended a local governmental entity against claims brought by the Texas Attorney General under Texas Government Code § 752.053 (commonly referred to as Senate Bill 4).
- Defended a software company against allegations of breach of contract in multi-million dollar dispute with technology services vendor.
- Defended a global online travel company and its affiliates in multiple actions pending in federal courts in Florida and Delaware involving claims under the Helms-Burton Act for alleged trafficking in real property confiscated by the Cuban government.
- Defended a global Internet vacation-rental marketplace in a suit arising from a prior acquisition transaction.
- Defended publicly-traded oil and gas company against allegations by lessor of underpayment of royalties and lease termination.

- Defended general partner and limited partnership in lawsuit involving fiduciary duty claims brought by limited partners regarding real estate investments.
- Obtained temporary restraining order and temporary injunction for engineering and manufacturing company in dispute with partner.
- Defended an environmental instrumentation and consulting company and two of its officers in derivative suit alleging trade-secret misappropriation and breach of fiduciary duty.
- Pursued multi-million dollar breach of contract claims for natural gas pipeline company against seller for failure to deliver natural gas.

Awards

- Texas Super Lawyers® Rising Stars, Business Litigation, 2022, 2023
- Executive Editor, Stanford Law Review
- Judicial Clerk, United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, 2012-2013

News & Insights

- Willie Cochran and Cheryl Joseph named Partners in the Firm
- City of San Antonio - Sanctuary City
- SDM Lawyers Recognized as 2023 Texas Rising Stars®

Practice Areas

- Business Litigation & Torts
- Class Action Litigation
- Fiduciary Duty Litigation
- Professional Malpractice, Licensing & Regulation
- Securities & Complex Financial Litigation
- White Collar Defense & Government Investigations Group
- Oil & Gas Litigation

Education

- University of Texas at Austin, B.B.A., Business Honors Program, summa cum laude, 2009
- University of Texas at Austin, B.A., Plan II, summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, 2009
- Stanford Law School, J.D., 2012

Admissions

- Texas State Bar
- New York State Bar
- District of Columbia Bar
- U.S. District Courts for the Eastern, Western, Northern, and Southern Districts of Texas
- U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia