SCOTT DOUGLASS McCONNICO

Cheryl Joseph LaFond

PARTNER

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Overview

Cheryl represents clients in complex commercial litigation, developing and executing strategies tailored to their commercial objectives. Her matters span real estate and contract disputes, restrictive covenant and trade secret litigation, and business torts including breach of fiduciary duty and fraud. She also regularly defends claims arising under recently enacted or seldom-litigated statutes. In addition, Cheryl represents companies and individuals in Texas Attorney General enforcement actions and in litigation that follows governmental investigations.

Born and raised in Austin, Cheryl graduated summa cum laude from The University of Texas at Austin, completing both the Plan II Honors and Business Honors programs. She earned her J.D. from Stanford Law School, where she served as Executive Editor of the Stanford Law Review. She then clerked for Judge Patrick Higginbotham on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit and practiced at Williams & Connolly LLP in Washington, D.C., before joining Scott Douglass & McConnico LLP.

Experience

Trial counsel a global online travel company and its affiliates in federal court litigation in Miami and Delaware under the Helms-Burton Act, securing a complete defense verdict in one of the matters in Miami federal court, judgment as a matter of law that reversed $119 million in prior verdicts in one action, a complete defense verdict in Delaware court, dismissal of one action (affirmed on appeal by the Eleventh Circuit), summary judgment in another (affirmed on appeal by the Eleventh Circuit), and voluntary dismissal of a final action after summary judgment motions were filed.

Trial counsel for a large student housing developer in multi-million-dollar claims brought by a former employee.

Representing a large commercial real estate developer in a range of potential commercial disputes, providing strategic guidance on risk management and litigation planning.

Defended a large municipality against claims brought by the Texas Attorney General under Texas Government Code ?? 752.053 (Senate Bill 4).

Secured complete defense judgment for a software company in arbitration alleging breach of contract in a multi-million-dollar dispute with technology services vendor.

Trial counsel for an environmental instrumentation and consulting company and two of its officers in derivative suit alleging trade-secret misappropriation and breach of fiduciary duty, resulting in dismissal of all claims.

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.

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??
- SDM wins complete defense judgment in Miami federal court, reversing verdicts totaling $119 million
- SDM Secures Complete Defense Verdict in latest Expedia Trial

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