



Shelby Hart-Armstrong

ASSOCIATE

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Overview

Shelby is a commercial trial lawyer who represents plaintiffs and defendants in state and federal court. She represents clients in an array of business disputes, including breach of contract, non-competition and trade secret, breach of fiduciary duty, fraud, data privacy, and constitutional disputes.

Shelby received her J.D. from Stanford Law School, where she served as Articles Editor of the Stanford Law Review and graduated with Highest Pro Bono Distinction. Prior to joining the firm, Shelby was a law clerk for the Honorable Edmond E. Chang of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois and practiced with Vinson & Elkins LLP in its Houston office.

Experience

- Successfully defended executive and director of public company against breach of fiduciary duty and conspiracy claims—obtained dismissal on the pleadings of purported \$100 million claims*
- Defended beverage company against tortious interference claim relating to an acquisition—case favorably settled before trial*
- Successfully defended manufacturer client against misappropriation of trade secrets and breach of non-compete provisions claims—obtained dismissal during pleadings stage*
- Successfully defended retail client against breach of contract claims and secured favorable settlement against claims and on counterclaims*
- Represented civil contractor in trade secret dispute—secured dismissal under the Texas Citizen's Participation Act (TCPA) with prejudice and obtained six figures in attorneys' fees*
- Part of team that secured dismissal in lawsuit challenging the imposition of harbor dues to finance the costs of a billion-dollar shipping channels improvement project and successfully defended judgment on federal appeal*

- Drafted amicus brief before the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit on behalf of journalists' non-profit regarding First Amendment public right of access*
- Represented individual plaintiffs in Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Act ("DTPA") and tortious interference lawsuit against solar panel company
- Argued for and obtained dismissals with prejudice on behalf of technology client against claims relating to product recall program
- Successfully defended service-provider clients at the temporary injunction stage in trade-secrets dispute
- Represents clients pro bono in housing and eviction disputes

**Indicates attorney's experience prior to joining Scott Douglass*

Awards

- *The National Black Lawyers*, Top 40 Under 40, 2022, 2025

Articles & Presentations

- Co-author, Corruption Defenses in Investment Arbitrations and Parallel Domestic Investigations and Proceedings, in the International Newsletter of the State Bar of Texas International Law Section (Summer 2020) and
- Co-author, How Do Tribunals in Investment Arbitrations Treat Parallel Domestic Investigations and Proceedings?, Kluwer Arbitration Blog (Jun. 14, 2020)

News & Insights

- SDM Welcomes New Associates to the Firm
- Shelby Hart-Armstrong recognized by The National Black Lawyers

Practice Areas

- Appellate
- Business Litigation & Torts
- Fiduciary Duty Litigation

Education

Stanford Law School, J.D., 2019

Duke University, B.A., 2014, Public Policy Analysis, Certificate in Economic Policy Analysis, Higher Distinction in Arabic Language

Admissions

- Texas State Bar
- U.S. District Courts for the Southern and Eastern Districts of Texas
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit

Activities

- Austin Bar Association, Member
- Austin Black Lawyers Association, Member
- Austin Young Lawyers Association, Member
- Travis County Women Lawyers Foundation, Sponsorships Co-Chair, Member, Board of Directors