SCOTT DOUGLASS McCONNICO

Tomas Castella

COUNSEL

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Overview

Tomas Castella is a trial lawyer who handles high-stakes litigation in Texas state and federal courts. He often represents plaintiffs and defendants in complex commercial disputes involving partnership, shareholder, fiduciary, and fraud claims. He also has significant experience in antitrust litigation and government investigations, including in cases brought by the Department of Justice, the Federal Trade Commission, and state attorneys general.

At Scott Douglass & McConnico, his work has included defending a real estate developer in a multimillion-dollar shareholder derivative lawsuit in the Texas Business Court, delivering opening statements and examining witnesses in a civil fraud bench trial in the Western District of Texas, and securing the dismissal of fraudulent transfer and conversion claims against a Texas law firm. Tomas also serves as Texas counsel for large companies and their outside counsel, pairing national-firm experience with local knowledge of Texas courts in coordinated litigation and other high-stakes matters.

Before joining Scott Douglass & McConnico, Tomas practiced for over seven years at Williams & Connolly in Washington, D.C., where he represented major technology, media, and life sciences companies and their senior executives in complex litigation, antitrust matters, and white-collar criminal investigations.

A dual citizen of the United States and Mexico and a native Spanish speaker, Tomas brings a bicultural understanding of Latin American business and legal systems to cross-border matters. His work in the region includes a DOJ criminal investigation and related civil litigation arising out of the FIFA bribery probe, sanctions matters before the Treasury Department???s Office of Foreign Assets Control, and litigation stemming from the Lava Jato corruption scandal in Brazil.

Tomas began his career as a law clerk to Judge David A. Ezra of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas and Judge Edward C. Prado of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. He received his J.D. with honors from the University of Texas School of Law, where he served on the executive board of the Texas Law Review, and earned a dual B.A. in Economics and Political Science from Boston College.

Experience

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

Commercial disputes and trials

Serving as lead counsel for a real estate developer in a multimillion-dollar shareholder derivative action in the Texas Business Court and related investor disputes across various multifamily projects.

Representing a technology company in coordinated tort litigation, including preparing multiple bellwether cases for jury trial and handling Texas witness and discovery issues.

Delivering opening statements and examining witnesses in a week-long fraud trial in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas.

Securing the dismissal of fraudulent transfer, conversion, and constructive trust claims against a Texas law firm and its founder.

Arguing and winning default judgments awarding a prominent Texas real estate developer over $500,000.

Antitrust and government enforcement matters

Representing a multinational technology company in coordinated antitrust litigation brought by the Federal Trade Commission, state attorneys general, and classes of private consumers challenging its pricing and other business practices.*

Advising a Texas company on antitrust risk for a proposed acquisition and on its antitrust compliance program.

Defending a biotechnology company in a federal antitrust lawsuit alleging monopolization and restraint of trade.*

Advising an oil and gas company on Texas and federal securities laws in connection with proposed mineral interest transactions.

Representing a non-profit organization in a civil lawsuit brought by the DOJ in the Western District of Texas. The case was dismissed with prejudice.*

Representing an international non-profit organization and its executives in a tax investigation and related civil litigation against the DOJ and the Internal Revenue Service.*

Latin American and other cross-border matters

Representing a global media company in a DOJ criminal investigation and a related civil RICO lawsuit arising from alleged conduct in South America.*

Representing Panamanian businesses in sanctions matters before the Treasury Department???s Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC).*

Advising a global media company on Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) compliance in connection with film and TV productions in the Middle East.*

Defending an international law firm in a malpractice action brought by a Brazilian industrial conglomerate embroiled in a government corruption probe.*

Winning asylum and permanent residency for a Salvadoran mother and young child who faced death threats from MS-13 and were separated at the U.S. border. Following protracted litigation and a contentious merits hearing, the judge ruled in their favor on multiple, independent grounds.

*(*denotes experience prior to joining Scott, Douglass & McConnico, L.L.P.)*

Awards

Leadership Council on Legal Diversity (LCLD) Pathfinder, 2023

News & Insights

- SDM Expands Practice Depth with Addition of Five Attorneys

Practice Areas

- Appellate
- Business Litigation & Torts
- Governmental Entity Litigation
- Securities & Complex Financial Litigation
- White Collar Defense & Government Investigations Group

Education

The University of Texas School of Law, J.D. with honors, 2016

Boston College, B.A. in Economics, B.A. in Political Science, 2011

Admissions

Texas

District of Columbia

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

U.S. District Courts for the District of Columbia and the Western District of Texas

Activities

Austin Bar Association

Hispanic National Bar Association