



Christopher D. Livingston

Partner

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214-880-2670

Chris Livingston has spoken on legal issues before the National Association of Attorneys General, the Dallas Police Association, the Texas Municipal Police Association, and continuing education groups on whistleblowers, discrimination, employment law, police use of force (including excessive force), and ERISA preemption. Chris has been counsel of record for amicus briefs before the United States Supreme Court in civil rights and ERISA preemption matters. He has also been cited as an authority on ERISA preemption in the Boston University Law Review (*See 81 B.U. L. REV. 867.*)

Additionally, Chris has represented more than 200 law enforcement officers in shootings, deaths in custody, and other critical incidents. Prior to joining Thompson Coe, he clerked for U.S. District Judge William M. Acker, Jr., (N.D. Ala.), and served as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Texas in the Financial Litigation Division.

Representative Experience

Obtained dismissal of the city from a former councilmember's alleged retaliatory arrest claim under the First Amendment.

Thompson v. McGehee, et al., 761 F.Supp.3d 937 (N.D. Tex. 2025).

Won dismissal of both the county and a convicted sheriff in a civil rights lawsuit asserting claims under the Fourth, Eighth, and Fourteenth Amendments.

Kennedy v. City of Arlington, et al., No. 4:24-cv-208-P, 2024 WL 5176870 (Oct. 16, 2017)

Obtained summary judgment in a whistleblower lawsuit filed by a fired police chief against his former employer.

Successful dismissal of multiple police officers from constitutional claims stemming from a police cadet's training death at the Arlington Police Academy.

Kennedy v. City of Arlington, et al., No. 4:24-cv-208-P, 2024 WL 5176870 (Oct. 16, 2017).

Won dismissal based on qualified immunity of school district superintendent in case involving the district's employee sexually assaulting two minor children

Prevailed at trial in multiple labor arbitrations under the Fire Fighters' and Police Officers' Civil Service Act.

Awards & Recognition

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE WILLIAM M. ACKER

Federal Clerkship

TEXAS SUPER LAWYERS

Listed for Civil Rights

2013-2016

SUPER LAWYERS

Texas Rising Stars

2009-2012

Related Services

Business and Commercial

Governmental Entities and Civil Rights Defense

Labor & Employment

Publications & Speaking Engagements

Qualified Immunity's High-Wire Act

Dallas Bar Association's Headnotes

2024

Police Use of Force Panel

Federal Reserve Oversight Committee Meeting, Dallas

2013

Law Enforcement Personnel Issues

Texas Bar CLE Suing & Defending Governmental Entities, Austin

2009

Education, Admissions & Activities

EDUCATION

University of Texas at Austin School of Law

J.D.

Board of Advocates

Robert F. Wagner National Labor and Employment Moot Court New York Competition Team

University of Kansas

B.A., with honors

Omicron Delta Kappa

Pi Sigma Alpha

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Assembly

BAR ADMISSIONS

Texas

1998

COURT ADMISSIONS

Supreme Court of the United States

United States Court of Appeals

Fifth Circuit

United States District Court of Texas

Northern, Eastern, and Western Districts

PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Dallas Bar Association

Texas City Attorneys Association

Scottish Rite

Texas Lodge of Research

Dallas Services (formerly the Low Vision Clinic and Dallas Day School)

Former Board Member