

Daniel L. O'Neil

Partner

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Daniel O'Neil is an experienced dispute resolution and litigation lawyer. Daniel is a member of the firm's Professional Liability section, where he pursues creative solutions to resolve complicated issues in professional malpractice, catastrophic injury, and other disputes.

Daniel maintains a diverse practice defending and counseling lawyers, accountants, real estate agents and brokers, surveyors, insurance agents, and other professionals, as well as representing clients in mass tort and product liability defense.

He was temporarily registered with the North Carolina State Bar to provide *pro bono* disaster recovery legal services through a legal services organization to indigent residents of North Carolina who are victims of Helene under Rule .0905(h) for out-of-state attorneys until January 24, 2025.

Daniel is passionate about making sure that licensed professionals occupy the space and leverage the opportunity to tell their side of the story when their livelihood and reputation are threatened by allegations.

Background

Before joining Thompson Coe, Daniel served as Texas house counsel for one of the nation's leading specialized P&C insurers which included several claims involving fatalities. Prior to that, he served in the Products, Pharma, Medical, and Mass Tort Disputes group in one of the world's largest international law firms as well as a nationally acclaimed litigation boutique defending aviation and maritime catastrophic incidents.

After earning his J.D., Daniel continued his formal education in the law earning a Master of Laws (*Legum Magister*) in Tax Law. The quantitative and analytical skills developed in the specialized program—including an externship in the Internal Revenue Service's Office of Chief Counsel, Large Business & International Division—have assisted clients in tax controversy & litigation disputes with state taxing authorities and the

Internal Revenue Service as well as in representing tax professionals directly in other disputes.

Daniel has worked extensively with clients who are facing their first, dreaded interaction with the legal system as a named party and he works diligently to explain what to expect and analyzes the options for moving forward in an easy-to-understand way. No matter what type of dispute or how complex it may be, Daniel advises clients with an eye toward early and efficient resolution.

Representative Experience

Obtained unanimous total defense jury verdict as designated lead counsel in Harris County, Texas on behalf of Fortune 500 truck leasing company in an alleged catastrophic injury that occurred on the steps of a yard mule.

Successfully argued Motion to Strike and Exclude Expert (Certified Public Accountant) Opinions in an accounting malpractice dispute in the pretrial conference one week before trial was set to begin, leading to dismissal of all claims against client.

Hours after delivering the opening statement in a jury trial—before Plaintiff called their first witness—settled a catastrophic injury professional liability dispute under favorable terms for nuisance value.

Obtained summary judgment on behalf of a residential real estate broker and realtor in a professional liability dispute asserting fraud in a real estate transaction, negligent supervision, breach of fiduciary duty, and violations of the Deceptive Trade Practices Act.

Represented Fortune 500 consumer products company in a billion-dollar (plus) products liability MDL by taking over 40 depositions of plaintiffs, fact witnesses, and experts.

Through effective litigation, settled a high-exposure legal malpractice claim at mediation for less than had been offered to the claimant as a pre-suit offer.

Obtained summary judgment on behalf of a Fortune 500 electric and gas utility in a personal injury lawsuit involving cows allegedly on the roadway during a morning commute. Defended utility in a variety of other disputes involving personal injury, property damage, breach of contract, and other claims.

Through effective litigation and offering \$0 at mediation, obtained a complete nonsuit from Pro Se Plaintiff on behalf of utility in a property damage lawsuit ten minutes before jury selection began in what would have been a first-chair trial.

Through effective litigation and plaintiff storming out of mediation, obtained a complete nonsuit from plaintiff the night before the pretrial conference (well past the statute of limitations to refile) on behalf of a natural gas service technician shockingly alleged to have “run over” a pedestrian in the street with a Ford F-550 truck.

Sustained \$2.1M business credit for pharmaceutical industry client in tax controversy & litigation.

Assisted numerous pro bono clients with deathbed Wills in hospitals, service as an annual volunteer with HBA's Will-A-Thon, assisted countless U.S. veterans with unique estate planning needs through Houston Volunteer Lawyers, and volunteered to help numerous families in the Third and Fifth Wards replace estate planning documents lost or destroyed in the wake of Hurricane Harvey.

Awards & Recognition

HOUSTON YOUNG LAWYERS FOUNDATION

Outstanding Trustee Award

2025

BEST LAWYERS - ONES TO WATCH

Listed for Professional Malpractice Law

2025

HOUSTON BAR FOUNDATION

Life Fellow

LEADERSHIP HOUSTON-CLASS XLI

Fellow

2022-2023

TEXAS BAR FOUNDATION

Life Fellow

HOUSTON YOUNG LAWYERS FOUNDATION

Life Fellow

HYLA LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Graduate

2021

HYLA

President's Award Winner for Outstanding Committee Co-Chair

2020

CITY OF HOUSTON

Daniel O'Neil Day Proclamation

October 1, 2018

HOUSTON BAR FOUNDATION

Outstanding Small Firm Contribution Award to the Houston Volunteer Lawyers

2017

HOUSTON VOLUNTEER LAWYERS

Designated as Probate Master

Related Services

Professional Liability

Publications & Speaking Engagements

Legal Malpractice 101

HYLA CLE

2025

What's Trending in Professional Liability Claims and Litigation

HYLA CLE

March 2024

Nonprofit Board Leadership and Ethics CLE

Houston Young Lawyers Foundation and United Way

September 27, 2023

What's Trending in Professional Liability Claims and Litigation

HYLA April CLE

April 11, 2023

2021-2022 HYLA February CLE

Program Advising Small Businesses

Education, Admissions & Activities

EDUCATION

University of Houston Law Center

LL.M., 2011

Staff, Houston Business and Tax Law Journal

South Texas College of Law

J.D., 2010

Phi Delta Phi

Pro Bono Honors Program Certificate

CALI Awards in Oil, Gas, and Mineral Law and Texas Marital Property

Southern Methodist University

B.A., 2007

Golden Key International Honor Society

National Ethics Traveling Team

BAR ADMISSIONS

Texas

2010

COURT ADMISSIONS

Supreme Court of the United States

United States Tax Court

United States Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit

United States District Court of Texas

Northern, Southern

Pro Hac Vice

Northern District of Florida

PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Holocaust Museum Houston

NEXTGen Chair/Director - 2023-2024

Leadership Houston Class XLI

Fellow

Houston Young Lawyers Foundation

Trustee, 2021-2025; Co-Chair of the Fellows Committee, 2023-2025; Co-Chair of the Pickleball Committee 2024-2025

Houston Young Lawyers Association

Director, 2020-2022; CLE Committee Chair, 2019-2022; Spanish Class Committee Chair, 2020-2021

Houston Arboretum and Nature Center

Evergreen Young Professional Member

University of Houston Alumni Association

Life Member

Meals on Wheels, Houston Food Bank, Ronald McDonald House

Volunteer

College of the State Bar of Texas

State Bar of Texas

Pro Bono College

Mortar Board Honor Society