

Seth Hopkins

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Writing Samples and Oral Argument Video at SethHopkins.com

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY:

Trial and appellate attorney who prevailed in the largest single-client Title II Americans with Disabilities Act case in history, successfully represented the longest-serving exonerated Texas inmate, defends the nation's third largest county in high profile litigation, and has argued before the Louisiana and Texas Supreme Courts and federal Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

LEGAL EXPERIENCE:

HARRIS COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, Houston, TX

Assistant County Attorney, Litigation Practice Group

January 2017 – present

Serve as lead appellate counsel in high profile litigation for the nation's third largest county. Clients include the nation's third largest sheriff's office, district attorney, medical examiner, district and county clerks, budget management office, public health department, flood control district, and juvenile justice center, as well as the county judge and district judges, commissioners, and elected officials. Cases include:

- **Election strike team & litigation.** Successfully defended the county clerk and voter registrar before the Texas appellate courts and Supreme Court in numerous challenges to the 2020 elections.
- **COVID-19 litigation.** Successfully defended emergency COVID-19 stay-home and face covering orders affecting 4.6 million residents. Litigation included four emergency preliminary injunction hearings, three emergency petitions for writ of mandamus to the Texas Supreme Court, and one brief to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. Also developed the County's Public Health quarantine forms.
- ***Green v. Harris County***, No. 4:16-CV-893, Southern District of Texas, Doc. 330 (6/26/19). Secured summary judgment in a lengthy, complex, and highly technical federal civil rights case where an inmate died from a rare and virulent form of meningitis caused by *Streptococcus sanguinis* bacteria.
- ***Grant v. Harris County***, 794 Fed.Appx. 352 (5th Cir. 2019). Successfully defended Harris County in the trial and appellate courts in an ADA employment case involving a juvenile supervision officer.
- ***Harris County vs. Annab***, 547 S.W.3d 609 (Tex. 2018). Successfully argued significant sovereign immunity case on behalf of Harris County to the Texas Supreme Court, resulting in unanimous reversal of the appellate court. The Texas Solicitor General joined in oral argument as an *amicus curiae*.

RALEY & BOWICK, L.L.P., Houston, TX

Commercial Litigation Associate

June 2013 – August 2016

Litigated on behalf of a boutique firm that recovered \$200 million for its clients in four years.

- **Commercial litigation & insurance:** Represented clients in multi-million dollar disputes regarding offshore oil platform assets, employment and shareholder litigation, legal malpractice, and a Louisiana legacy oilfield contamination case. Initiated arbitration on behalf of National Oilwell Varco to recover \$19 million owed by a Kazakhstani company for offshore oilfield equipment.
- **Intellectual property:** Assisted in defense and prosecution of oilfield patent litigation for NOV and Peak Completion Technologies and patent prosecution of Kaneka Corporation's proprietary microbe and fermentation process for making Co-Q₁₀, a pharmaceutical enzyme.
- **Civil rights:** Represented the longest-serving exonerated Texas inmate following his release after 31 years in prison. The case resulted in approximately \$5 million in compensation and benefits.
- **Government:** Represented former Houston mayor Roy Hofheinz's family after the University of Houston sought to unilaterally rename the Hofheinz Pavilion in violation of a donor agreement.

THE HOPKINS LAW FIRM, Houston, TX

Litigation & Transaction Attorney

2000 - 2003 & October 2009 - June 2013

Advised and litigated in corporate, wrongful death, civil rights, and contract disputes. Notable clients include regional entertainers, corporate and non-profit organizations, and Major League Baseball players Prince Fielder, Joseph Crede, and Bruce Chen.

- ***Covington v. McNeese***. Served as lead counsel in a 12-year landmark case argued three times to the Louisiana Supreme Court, resulting in the largest single-client Title II Americans with Disabilities Act recovery in history. The case prompted a U.S. DOJ civil rights investigation, a \$13.8 million injunction to correct 15,000 violations on a 1.3 million square foot campus, systemic changes at eight public universities, and national media coverage. *See, e.g.*, “Texas lawyer wins hard-fought fees in bitter disability case”, *The National Law Journal* (9/6/2012). In awarding \$1.5 million in fees, the appellate court referred to “young Hopkins” as “eloquent,” “truly devoted,” “gallant,” and presenting “a well-orchestrated case worthy of emulation by the most seasoned attorneys” for his “superior performance” in a “rare and exceptional” case. 98 So.3d 414 (La.App. 3 Cir. 9/5/12).

KASOWITZ, BENSON, TORRES & FRIEDMAN, Houston, TX

Litigation Attorney

February 2005 - October 2009

Assisted in the defense and prosecution of complex litigation for this Am Law 250 Fast Rise to the Top national firm. Conducted all facets of trial preparation, including extensive deposition coverage (more than 100 depositions), document review and production, and substantial research, motion filings and argument. Work included assisting with the defense of a significant premises liability docket in Texas, North Carolina, South Carolina, Massachusetts, and Louisiana. Also assisted with a major New England soil contamination case, a significant international shipping antitrust case, a polyester staples antitrust case, a pipeline construction defect dispute, and a \$65 billion chemical company merger.

THE HONORABLE PATRICIA MINALDI, Federal District Judge, Western District of Louisiana

Federal Judicial Law Clerk

June 2003 – November 2004

Served as an elbow law clerk for the only active Article III judge in a six parish area with a major federal prison and immigration detention center. Employment began on this newly appointed judge’s first day of work. Assisted with administrative and legal aspects of setting up a new federal office. Duties included writing and editing opinions, judgments, and jury charges, scheduling dockets, research, assisting with trials, and communicating with attorneys and other federal offices on behalf of the Court. Docket of more than 450 civil suits included a \$1 billion telecommunications RICO suit and a complex international dispute between the Republic of Venezuela and numerous parties over the ownership of an offshore research module to be placed along its disputed border with Columbia.

14th JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF LOUISIANA, Lake Charles, LA

Judicial Law Clerk

August 1999 - August 2000

Served as a law clerk for nine judges in civil, criminal, and family matters. Prepared jury charges, orders, and opinions, and responded to pre and post-conviction relief applications. Drafted several landmark opinions relating to the Louisiana tobacco litigation and Louisiana’s legalized gaming industry.

U.S. ATTORNEY’S OFFICE, Middle District of Louisiana, Baton Rouge, LA

Federal Law Clerk

May 1998 - June 1999

Assisted Criminal and Civil Division Assistant U.S. Attorneys in prosecuting defendants and representing the United States. Duties included research, drafting pleadings, and participating with prosecutors and FBI agents in grand jury target and defendant interviews. Areas of law included white collar and drug crimes, bank robbery, forfeiture, tort defense, civil rights, and environmental.

LEGAL HONORS, TEACHING EXPERIENCE, AND PUBLICATIONS:

TAX INCREMENT REINVESTMENT DISTRICT 15, Houston, TX, Board of Directors, 2020-2022.

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON LAW CENTER, Coach of semi-finalist team at the 2020 San Diego Criminal Procedure Moot Court Competition; Coach, 2020 John Gibbons Moot Court Competition; Judge, 2020 Hunton Andrews Kurth Moot Court National Championship; Brief grader, 2020 Texas Young Lawyers' Association Moot Court Competition.

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER, Judge, 2020 Tullis Moot Court Competition.

CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION PRESENTER, Election Law Tricks & Treats, Harris County Attorney's Office, 2020.

PURDUE UNIVERSITY GLOBAL, Online Instructor/Course Developer, 2008-2019. Courses include Constitutional Law, Intellectual Property, Torts, Contracts, Legal Ethics, Trial & Courtroom Presentation.

LOUISIANA STATE BAR JOURNAL, Editorial Board, 2003-2005. Wrote and edited articles for the award-winning Louisiana Bar Association journal, which is distributed to nearly 20,000 attorneys six times per year. ("Local Justice: What every lawyer should know about Louisiana's justices of the peace" Parts 1 and 2, Seth B. Hopkins, 52 La. B.J. 16 (2004); "Lee Hargrave's LSU Law: The Louisiana State University Law School from 1906 to 1977", Seth B. Hopkins, 52 La. B.J. 198 (2004)). Also published in the *National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys' Journal*.

SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA BAR ASSOCIATION, Executive Committee, 2003-2005. Editor, *The Sidebar*, the Association's official bar journal, 2002-05; **President's Award**, 2002 and 2003.

KPLC-TV, Lake Charles, La. 2001-2005. Served as a rotating attorney for this NBC affiliate's Sunrise Show's "Ask the Expert" live call-in program for legal advice.

OPENINGSTATEMENT.COM and WRITEMYSPEECH.COM, 1999-2005. Developed the world's first online speech writing/trial consulting service.

EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSES:

Juris Doctor and B.A. in English from Louisiana State University. Attended McNeese State University and Harvard University. Admitted to practice law in the State of Texas, 2001 and Louisiana, 1999. Admitted in the Louisiana Eastern, Middle, and Western Federal Districts, Texas Northern and Southern Districts, Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal, Court of Federal Claims, Tax Court, Court of International Trade, and Federal Circuit Court of Appeals. Trained mediator and member of the Texas Bar College.

PRE-LAW EXPERIENCE:

THE WHITE HOUSE, Washington, D.C.

Intern

Summer 1995

Worked in the **Presidential Personnel Office**. Helped to maintain the Clinton administration's resume network, worked on special projects, and drafted letters on behalf of Bob Nash and President Clinton. Also worked in the **News Analysis Office**. This involved evaluating news and opinion stories from national media and preparing and delivering daily media summaries to Vice-President Gore, Chief of Staff, and West Wing advisors. Editor, *The Internet*, White House intern newsletter.

SENATOR J. BENNETT JOHNSTON & CONGRESSMAN JIMMY HAYES, Washington, D.C.

Intern

Summer 1993

Assisted with press and constituent services. Drafted press releases, prepared position papers on legislative issues and White House nominees, such as Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, provided Capital tours, and handled visitors and callers such as Ross Perot and President Clinton.

DEBATE AND PUBLIC SPEAKING. Nationally competitive college debater and speaker who received 35 regional and national awards and was ranked top speaker in Louisiana.