



## Matt Rowan

Partner

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Tyler, TX – 214.560.1054  
Dallas, TX

Matt Rowan is a civil litigation attorney with extensive statewide experience in health law, corporate litigation, oil and gas litigation, employment law, eminent domain pipeline condemnation litigation, intellectual property litigation and probate matters. Matt has tried more than 20 cases to juries and before judges in the state of Texas, argued appellate briefs before the Tenth and Twelfth Courts of Appeals in Texas, and briefed arguments to the Texas Supreme Court. Matt has significant experience in trial work, corporate governance, medical negligence litigation, personal injury defense and transportation cases.

While in law school, Matt demonstrated his competitive spirit as a member of the Baylor University Mock Trial Team, placing first in the Southwest Region and third in the nation at National Trial Competition (NTC). He also was the recipient of the Evidence Award in the Baylor Practice Court in 2001 and captured top awards in two law firm-sponsored moot court competitions.

### **Civil Litigation**

Matt leverages his extensive trial experience to represent clients and resolve claims quickly and efficiently, as he continues to grow his civil litigation practice in Texas and within the federal court system. He regularly accesses the firm's centralized resources and firmwide talent to provide innovative and cost-effective solutions to clients' most complex legal issues.

### **Commercial Litigation / Transportation**

Matt defends transportation and other commercial clients in potential litigation with a continual focus on a high-quality and efficient defense. He provides clients with innovative and timely strategic counsel to help them make better-informed decisions, resolve complex legal challenges and achieve specific business goals.

### **Services**

- Commercial Litigation
- Complex Tort & General Casualty

## **Education**

- Baylor University School of Law (J.D., 2001)
  - Fulbright & Jaworski Advocacy Award; Order of the Barristers, 1999–2001
- Baylor University (B.A. Political Science, 1998)
  - Recipient of Four-Year National Merit Scholarship; Outstanding Student in Political Science, 1997–1998

## **Bar Admissions**

- Texas

## **Court Admissions**

- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Texas
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Texas
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Texas
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of Texas
- U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Eastern District of Texas

## **Professional Affiliations**

- Smith County Bar Association
- Smith County Bar Foundation
- Texas Bar Foundation, Life Fellow
- Texas Association of Defense Counsel
- Leadership Tyler – Class 18, Tyler and Smith Counties, Texas
- Board Member, Goodwill Industries of East Texas, Inc.
- Board Member, City of Tyler Historical Preservation Board

## **Awards & Honors**

- Selected for inclusion in Texas Rising Stars, Thomson Reuters, 2009–2016
- Outstanding Young Lawyer, Smith County, 2010

# **Representative Matters**

Organized and administered a large, multistate document review procedure for a major financial institution in relation to a patent infringement case. The project encompassed more than a year of work and review of millions of documents, leveraging more than 50 attorneys in three states.

Represented a multinational oil and gas company in organizing, coordinating and

administering a large purchase/ condemnation of natural gas pipeline easements in multiple counties in Texas, as well as securing purchases of land to construct lift stations and processing facilities. The project involved the use of eminent domain powers as a common carrier in Texas and further involved the filing of more than 60 state court cases involving hundreds of landowners in six counties, as well as coordination with local governments, municipalities and utility districts to accomplish the task.

Successfully represented landowners in a dispute over the condemnation of land by the state for the construction of a road project. Secured a reasonable payment for the land taken.

Obtained a zero-liability finding on verdict of a pulmonologist in a wrongful death case involving a pulmonary embolism and complex medical presentments after a multi-week trial.

Obtained a zero-liability verdict on behalf of a hospitalist in a wrongful death case involving failure to diagnose.

Obtained a complete defense verdict for a general contractor in a personal injury/ workplace injury matter.

Obtained a full defense verdict in a wrongful death negligence case involving an incident surrounding the striking of a pedestrian.

Obtained a favorable verdict in a property dispute involving a large tract of land and multiple owners seeking to go "fee simple" with common property.

Obtained a permanent injunction on a restaurant on behalf of landlord/ anchor tenant in a breach of lease fraud case involving "rebranding."

Obtained a complete defense verdict on behalf of a municipality involving a contract to construct infrastructure and breach of same by the general contractor.

Successfully defended a Will from a challenge in a large estate matter, resulting in it being upheld.

Obtained a judgment on behalf of a local church on a breach of contract matter involving a general contractor and construction contract that provided defective materials.

## Client Wins

### **Rowan & Wood Successfully Defend Insured in Stipulated Liability Case**

Matt Rowan (Partner-Tyler, TX) and Morgan Wood (Of Counsel-Tyler, TX) defended the insured (a farm truck driver) in a stipulated liability case involving a motor vehicle accident where the driver impacted the plaintiff's vehicle while delivering a load of stone to a local distributor in inclement weather. The plaintiff claimed a traumatic brain injury and significant damages from the accident and alleged gross negligence. The plaintiff was

demanding \$7.3 million in damages. The defense disputed the amount of damages as the evidence did not show such an extent of damage to the plaintiff, and disputed gross negligence. After a four-day trial in Denton County, Texas, wherein the plaintiff only sought non-economic damages (physical pain, mental anguish and physical impairment) in the amount of \$7.3 million, the jury returned a verdict awarding only \$44,500 in damages to the plaintiff (which was even less than the defense asked for in their closing argument) and denying gross negligence in full. This was a big win for the insured.

**Rowan and Wood Uphold Covenant Not to Compete**

Matt Rowan (Of Counsel-Dallas, TX) and Morgan Wood (Associate-Dallas, TX) successfully defended their client, a utility line services repair company, in a lawsuit brought by a former employee for tortious interference with a contract and declaratory judgment after the employee went to work with a direct competitor in violation of the covenant not to compete. After a three-day bench trial, the court found that the covenant not to compete and nonsolicitation agreement was valid and enforceable against the former employee, that the employee had breached the agreement by going to work immediately with a direct competitor and that the subsequent firing of the plaintiff by the competitor was not due to interference by our client. The court ordered that the plaintiff take nothing from the suit and the covenant not to compete was valid and enforceable under Texas law.