



## Morgan Wood

Of Counsel

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Morgan Wood represents companies and individuals in all aspects of civil litigation. Her practice focuses on the defense of personal injury, automobile liability and premises liability claims. She advises insurance companies in coverage-related matters, including coverage determinations, claims handling, settlement negotiations and bad faith avoidance. She also handles litigation in federal and state courts involving contractual and extra-contractual claims.

### Education

- Texas A&M University School of Law (J.D., 2017)
- Texas A&M University (B.S., 2014)

### Bar Admissions

- Texas

### Court Admissions

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

## Client Wins

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

### Services

- Transportation
- Product Liability, Prevention & Government Compliance
- Complex Tort & General Casualty

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.

#### **Kent and Wood Obtain Unanimous Defense Verdict in Auto Collision Case**

Jarad Kent (Partner-Dallas/Tyler, TX) and Morgan Wood (Associate-Tyler, TX) defended a client involved in a motor vehicle accident. Both drivers were making left-hand turns out of parking lots across the road from each other when they collided. Each side faulted the other for the accident. Our client, through separate counsel, asserted counterclaims against the plaintiff, who was logged into the driver version of DoorDash at the time of the accident. The counterclaims resolved a week prior to trial, leaving only the plaintiff's affirmative claims against our client. After a one-day trial, the jury returned a unanimous defense verdict finding the plaintiff to be 70 percent at fault for the accident and our client only 30 percent at fault.

#### **Kent and Wood Obtain Dismissal of Claim against Interstate Trucking Client**

Jarad Kent (Of Counsel-Tyler/Dallas, TX) and Morgan Wood (Associate-Tyler/Dallas, TX) secured dismissal of a transportation/cargo claim in U.S. District Court, Northern District of Texas, Lubbock Division for a small interstate trucking company client. Our client was hired by an oil and gas workover operations company to transport a rig from North Dakota to West Texas, but was involved in a single-vehicle accident resulting in damage to the rig. The plaintiff originally filed suit in Lubbock County District Court seeking in excess of \$1 million. We removed the original case to Federal Court and filed a Rule 12(b)(6) Motion to Dismiss, and the plaintiff voluntarily dismissed the initial lawsuit, hired a new attorney and re-filed the case in the Northern District of Texas. Jarad and Morgan re-filed our Rule 12(b)(6) motion, to which the plaintiff responded, arguing that alleged pre-contractual

misrepresentations precluded application of a *Carmack* preemption. We filed a reply and, after pending for nearly eight months, the court entered an Order Granting Motion to Dismiss Pursuant to Rule 12(b)(6) and dismissing all claims with prejudice.