

Clifford L. Harrison



Shareholder [Houston](#)
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Education

J.D. from University of Houston Law Center
B.A. from The University of Texas at Austin

Bar Admissions

Texas
United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit
United States District Court for the Eastern, Northern,
Southern and Western Districts of Texas
United States Supreme Court

Related Practices

Litigation
Construction Litigation
Employment Litigation
Personal Injury & Wrongful Death
Products Liability

Related Industries

Construction
Energy
Manufacturing
Transportation

Overview

With nearly 40 years of experience, Cliff has earned his stripes as a veteran trial lawyer, having tried more than 170 cases to jury verdict and having handled cases in virtually every corner of the state.

Cliff's vast experience in transportation litigation, products liability, premises liability, toxic tort, wrongful death, negligence, oil field and refinery accidents, construction litigation and commercial cases has resulted not only in numerous courtroom victories for his clients, but has also won him the respect of his peers, who have selected him to be included in *Thomson Reuters* "Texas Super Lawyers" list in the area of Personal Injury – Defense every year since 2004. He has also been named by *Woodward/White, Inc.* to the Best Lawyers in America list every year since 2017 in the area of Personal Injury – Defendants and every year since 2018 in the area of Product Liability – Defendants. His extensive courtroom experience and reputation have also equipped him to achieve quick and efficient pretrial settlements for a variety of clients.

As a frequent speaker on various topics involving trial tactics, Cliff served on the faculty of the IADC Trial Academy, the TADC Trial Academy and the Texas College of Trial Advocacy.

Achievements

Litigation Counsel of America – Fellow

Thomson Reuters –Texas Super Lawyers (2004-2023)

Woodward/White, Inc. – Best Lawyers in America,
“Lawyer of the Year” (2023); Best Lawyers in America,
Personal Injury Litigation – Defendants (2017-2024); Best
Lawyers in America, Products Liability Litigation –
Defendants (2018-2024)

Memberships

American Bar Association

American Board of Trial Advocates

Defense Research Institute

Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel

Houston Bar Association

International Association of Defense Counsel, Trial
Academy (Faculty, 2010)

State Bar of Texas

Texas Association of Defense Counsel, Trial Academy
(Faculty, 2007)

Texas Bar Foundation

Texas College of Trial Advocacy

Transportation Industry Defense Association

Experience

Products Liability

Successfully defended a leading manufacturer of personnel lifts in a products liability case in which, after a three week jury trial, the general contractor for the Baylor football stadium was charged with negligence and ordered to pay \$17 MM in a death case while our client, the lift manufacturer, was exonerated.

Products Liability

Successfully defended a leading manufacturer of personnel lifts in a products liability case in which the court changed Texas products liability law, specifically regarding design defect cases. The plaintiff argued that our client's lift was defective as designed because it was not safe when the explicit instructions (to never move the lift when someone is in the basket) are ignored. Those instructions were ignored and the person in the basket was killed. The Court held that the instructions against this type of misuse were very clear and the danger was obvious, and held that when the risk that someone will ignore those instructions is very small, then a change in the design is not required in order to make the product reasonably safe. In such a case, the Supreme Court held, the question should not even be submitted to a jury, as the risk of harm does not outweigh the product's utility as a matter of law.

Products Liability + Brain Damage

Successfully tried and ultimately settled, for a very nominal amount, a products liability case involving a significant head injury on behalf of a heavy equipment manufacturer.

Negligence + Wrongful Death

Successfully defended the Mexico-based branch of an international electronic manufacturing company in federal court regarding a case in which a truck driver allegedly hauling appliances from Mexico to Mississippi fell asleep and killed a number of people on a highway in Louisiana.

Negligence + Wrongful Death

Successfully defended a bus company that was sued after an intoxicated passenger was removed from the bus and was later killed on the highway. The plaintiff sought in excess of \$1 MM, but the jury exonerated the bus company.

Negligence + Wrongful Death

Successfully represented the operator of a landfill in a wrongful death case that arose when an invitee of the landfill was crushed and killed by a landfill dozer. The jury found no negligence on the landfill operator or its employees.

Products Liability + Brain Damage

Defended the manufacturer of a mobile crane that tipped over, resulting in significant head and orthopedic injuries, and led to a lawsuit in which the damages exceeded \$3 MM. The jury found that the crane was not defective, resulting in a take nothing judgment and a total victory for the defense.

Products Liability

Represented a large international manufacturer of plastic pipes. The pipe was used to transport water at an oil well drilling site and, because the water was extremely hot, the pipe burst and caused a sinkhole. An oilfield worker fell into the sinkhole, which was full of boiling water, and was burned. He survived ten days and then died of his injuries. Plaintiff sued the manufacturer of the pipe, seeking several million dollars. The case was tried in south Texas, and the jury found that the pipe was not defective, completely exonerating the manufacturer.

Negligence + Personal Injury

Defended a large waste disposal company, whose driver backed his waste truck into another vehicle, resulting in injuries to the other driver. The other driver filed suit, alleging damages for a double operated back, a complete inability to work, and in excess of \$3 MM in damages. The jury found that the plaintiff was at fault and also found that his alleged injuries were not caused by the accident.

Newsroom

Press Release: 14 Munsch Hardt Attorneys Recognized in 2023 Texas Super Lawyers® Directory

Press Release: 'Best Lawyers in America®' Names 54 Munsch Hardt Attorneys to its 2024 List and Two as 'Lawyers of the Year'

Press Release: Win Secured for Landowner in Polk County Litigation Case

Press Release: 2022 Texas Super Lawyers® Recognizes 13 Munsch Hardt Attorneys

Press Release: Munsch Hardt Attorneys Honored as 2023 'Best Lawyers in America®,' 'Ones to Watch', and 'Lawyer of the Year'

Press Release: Twelve Munsch Hardt Attorneys Named to 2021 Texas Super Lawyers List

Press Release: Munsch Hardt Attorneys Honored as 2022 'Best Lawyers in America', 'Ones to Watch' and 'Lawyer of the Year'

Press Release: Fifteen Munsch Hardt Attorneys Named to 2020 Texas Super Lawyers List

Press Release: Munsch Hardt Attorneys Honored as '2021 Best Lawyers in America' and 'Ones to Watch'

Press Release: Clifford Harrison Selected as Fellow of The Litigation Counsel of America

In The News: Jury sides with company in industrial death of employee

In The News: Trial begins in wrongful death lawsuit of man crushed by hydraulic lift

Press Release: Seventeen Munsch Hardt Attorneys Recognized on 2019 Texas Super Lawyers List

Press Release: Twenty-Five Munsch Hardt Attorneys Honored as '2020 Best Lawyers in America'

Press Release: Seventeen Munsch Hardt Attorneys Included on 2018 Texas Super Lawyers List

Press Release: Twenty-One Munsch Hardt Attorneys Recognized as 2019 “Best Lawyers in America”

Press Release: Seventeen Munsch Hardt Attorneys Recognized as 2017 Texas Super Lawyers

Press Release: Eighteen Munsch Hardt Attorneys Honored as ‘2018 Best Lawyers in America’

Press Release: Munsch Hardt Congratulates its 14 Texas Super Lawyers

Press Release: ‘100 Men Who Give a Damn’ Houston Chapter Raises \$13,825 for Making It Better at Inaugural Meeting

Press Release: Munsch Hardt Wins Defense Verdict in Baylor University Bridge Wrongful Death Case

Press Release: Twenty-Two Munsch Hardt Attorneys Recognized as 2017 Best Lawyers in America

Press Release: Thirteen Munsch Hardt Attorneys Recognized as 2015 Texas Super Lawyers

Press Release: Munsch Hardt Welcomes Eight Attorneys from Harrison Bettis McFarland to Houston Office

Press Release: Munsch Hardt, Harrison Bettis McFarland Join Forces to Propel Strategic Growth in Texas

Article: Successfully Defending a Minor Impact, Operated Back Case

Speech: Keeping the Lid on Damages

Speech: Tips for Effective Use of Biomechanical Evidence

Speech: Selecting and Retaining Experts and Strategically Preparing Daubert Challenges

Speech: Jury Selection and Communications: Effective Strategies for Winning Over the Jury and Overcoming Sympathy for Plaintiffs