

## Michael C. "Mike" Lee



Shareholder [Dallas](#)  
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### Education

J.D. from Texas Tech University School of Law *summa cum laude*

- *Texas Tech Law Review* (Member)
- Order of the Coif

B.S. from Texas A&M University

### Bar Admissions

Texas

United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit

### Related Practices

Litigation

Appellate

Director & Officer Litigation

Lawyer & Law Firm Litigation

Real Estate Litigation

### Related Industries

Manufacturing

Real Estate

Retail

## Overview

Mike is a business litigator who represents clients in a wide range of disputes, including construction, director and officer, oil and gas and general business disputes.

Mike is also a business divorce lawyer who counsels clients through the business-divorce process and litigates related disputes when necessary to achieve his clients' goals. Business disputes, particularly business break-ups, require steady counsel and a creative mind – both of which are skills Mike has displayed throughout his career. Mike understands his clients' business goals and incorporates litigation strategies designed to accomplish those goals in a timely manner. Mike often partners with the Firm's Corporate team to seamlessly manage the business-divorce process.

In addition to his business litigation experience, Mike is a lawyer for lawyers. He represents both individual lawyers and law firms in matters involving legal malpractice and other professional liability issues. Mike's business and business litigation experience has proved to be invaluable while representing lawyers and law firms. Many legal malpractice and professional liability issues arise out of underlying business disputes that must, in effect, be re-litigated in defense of his clients. Moreover, law firms are no different than other businesses in that good counsel, good business advice and zealous representation mitigate against the losses to a business's bottom line that can be caused by litigation.

## Achievements

*Thomson Reuters* – Texas Rising Stars (2014-2016)

## Memberships

Dallas Association of Young Lawyers

Dallas Athletic Club (Board of Directors)

Dallas Bar Association, Business Litigation, Construction Law and Energy Law Sections

State Bar of Texas, Construction Law, Litigation and Oil, Gas and Mineral Law Sections

St. John's Episcopal School (Board of Trustees)

## Experience

### Business Divorce

Represented siblings in a family-business dispute. Mike developed a creative, out-of-the box litigation strategy and navigated the psychological and emotional challenges of family disputes to secure a result that prominent lawyers from other well-known firms said was not achievable. The end result was Mike helped his clients avoid prolonged litigation and protect assets exceeding \$8 MM that were at risk prior to his representation.

### Business Divorce

Represented a former officer and shareholder of a construction company in breach of fiduciary duty and trademark litigation following his departure of the construction company and formation of a new, allegedly, competing company. After months of often bare knuckle litigation in both federal and state court, Mike and his team negotiated a settlement that divorced his client from his prior construction company and that created a platform for him to grow and prosper with his new company.

### Law Firm Litigation

Obtained summary judgment for a full-service law firm in a case involving estate planning in Dallas County Probate Court. In a complicated fact pattern, the court determined the firm had not presented admissible evidence of negligence and proximate cause.

### Law Firm Litigation

Represented full-service law firm and individual lawyers in connection with pre-suit negotiations relating to alleged professional negligence related to the probate, and related litigation, of a high net worth estate. Mike aided in the successful resolution of the dispute without litigation.

## Manufacturing Litigation

Obtained a summary judgment for a manufacturer of firearms based on the Texas statute of repose. In this case, the plaintiff was injured by an accidental discharge of a rifle he admittedly acquired more than 15 years before the incident. He argued, however, that New York law should apply, not Texas law, because the rifle was designed and manufactured in New York. The lawsuit alleged design and manufacturing defects. New York law has no statute of repose. The Munsch Hardt team successfully argued that under the circumstances of this case, Texas law should apply. The court found that Texas' statute of repose barred Plaintiff's causes of action as a matter of law.

## Litigation + Appellate Counsel

Lead litigation and appellate counsel for a prospective purchaser of a 42,000 acre ranch in West Texas. The plaintiff alleged it had suffered more than \$1 MM in direct damages and up to \$10 MM in consequential damages arising out the prospective purchaser's alleged breach of contract, fraud, and tortious interference with an underlying contract between the plaintiff and prospective purchaser. After discovery, Mike secured a take nothing judgment against the Plaintiff via summary judgment. Mike then served as lead appellate counsel, securing a complete affirmation of the trial court's judgment.

## Newsroom

**Press Release:** Seven Munsch Hardt Attorneys Recognized as 2016 Texas Super Lawyers Rising Stars

**Press Release:** Munsch Hardt Attorneys Recognized by Super Lawyers as 2015 Rising Stars

**Press Release:** Munsch Hardt Attorneys Recognized as 2014 Rising Stars by Super Lawyers

**Press Release:** Munsch Hardt Announces 2013 Attorney Promotions