

OVERVIEW

Phil serves as the Firm's current Co-General Counsel, Lateral Recruiting Shareholder, and leader of the Mediation + Alternative Dispute Resolution practice, where his decision-making ability and history of resolving complex commercial cases ensures a balanced and impartial approach to every case. Phil recently received his certificate of completion from Northwestern University School of Professional Studies Mediation Program.

With more than 30 years of litigation experience, Phil's practice has historically focused on large, complex commercial litigation cases involving fiduciaries and creditors against former officers, directors, and other professional advisors of failed companies. He also regularly represents clients on a variety of securities litigation matters. Phil places a great deal of emphasis on client service by being highly responsive and remaining focused on his clients' business objectives. This approach, coupled with his strategic thinking, has made him an accomplished trial lawyer who has obtained numerous favorable verdicts in sophisticated, multi-million-dollar disputes.

He has previously served as the Firm's Chief Executive Officer, Chief Operating Officer, and Section Head of the Litigation Practice group, as well as a member of the Firm's Board of Directors, Compensation, Operations, and Diversity Committees.

Phil and his wife, Rhonda, live in Dallas and have two sons, Brock and Zack.

EDUCATION

University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law, J.D.

- UMKC Law Review (Administrative Editor)

Evangel University, B.S., with honors

ACHIEVEMENTS

D CEO – Dallas 500 (2018-2021, 2024)

Martindale-Hubbell® AV Preeminent® Peer Review Rated ™

Thomson Reuters – Texas Super Lawyers (2012-2015); Texas Rising Stars (2004-2005)

Woodward/White, Inc. – Best Lawyers in America, Litigation – Bankruptcy (2020-2026); Best Lawyers in America, Commercial Litigation (2020-2026)

MEMBERSHIPS

Evangel University (Board of Trustees Member)

Folds of Honor Foundation, DFW Chapter (Board Member)

Former United States Army Judge Advocate General Corp Officer (Rank of Captain)

Mesquite Independent School District (Former Board of Trustees – President)

Texas Bar Foundation (Fellow)



D. 214.855.7542

E. pappenzeller@munsch.com

RELATED PRACTICES

Litigation

Arbitration

Director & Officer Litigation

Financial Institution
Litigation

Insolvency Litigation

Mediation + Alternative
Dispute Resolution

Warranty

RELATED INDUSTRIES

Financial Services

Technology &
Telecommunications

REPRESENTATIONS

- Served as lead trial counsel representing the Creditors' Trustee for the Life Partners Creditors' Trust. Oversaw three pieces of litigation against brokers and outside directors who participated in massive life settlement fraud, as well as prosecuting claims against the outside auditors of Life Partners, who failed to discover the fraud.
- Served as lead counsel on behalf of an international financial institution in connection with the fraudulent conveyance of hundreds of millions of dollars of collateral by a large international borrower.
- Served as lead counsel for a trustee of a bankrupt university. Managed the D&O claims and claims against the university's auditor. Obtained a successful settlement from both groups.
- Served as lead counsel for a large student loan servicing company against a software provider. Obtained a \$7.5 MM jury verdict in October 2016.
- Served as co-lead counsel representing the bankrupt Texas Rangers baseball team against its previous owner, Tom Hicks.
- Represented the Liquidating Trustee in the Texas Rangers bankruptcy, defending a \$20 MM claim by an air charter company.
- Lead counsel in a construction arbitration on behalf of a large manufacturer against the general contractor and subcontractor for installing a faulty fire suppression system.
- Served as counsel for 190 Canadian investors in a large real estate Ponzi scheme.
- Served as lead counsel for an SEC-appointed Receiver in a large oil and gas Ponzi scheme.
- Acted as lead counsel for a court-appointed trustee in a large Ponzi scheme that set precedent on the definition of "securities": the ETS Payphones case.
- Successfully arbitrated in the Dubai International Arbitration Center, as lead counsel on behalf of the developer of a large commercial development in Dubai against a Dubai governmental entity.
- Managed all the litigation for a large bankrupt public telecommunications company (SmarTalk Teleservices, Inc.), including management of its officer and director claims, breach of contract claims, accountant malpractice litigation, federal securities litigation, and professional malpractice claims. Oversaw the work of NY and California counsel on ancillary matters.
- Successfully defended a telecommunications company in an arbitration in Dallas where the potential liability exceeded \$15 million.
- Represented two high-net-worth individuals in litigation against a national accounting firm and various law firms for breach of fiduciary duty and negligent advice that resulted in placing the individuals in improper tax shelters.
- Acted as lead counsel for a court-appointed trustee for Astropower, Inc., a former publicly traded international energy firm. Managed litigation against the company's officers and directors and outside auditors.
- Acted as lead counsel for the Trustee of a former public architect and engineering firm. Oversaw an investigation against the company's officers, directors, and outside auditors.