

Fee, Smith & Sharp LLP



Paul A. Derks

SENIOR PARTNER



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Paul Derks represents both large and small business entities and individuals who find themselves involved in construction, products, premises and personal injury matters.

Practice Areas & Education

PRACTICE AREAS

- Construction Liability and Defects
- Commercial and Business Litigation
- Premises Liability
- Products Liability
- Personal Injury Defense

EDUCATION

- University of Tulsa, J.D., 1999
- Loyola University, B.A., 1995

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Texas
- Oklahoma

About Paul

EXPERIENCE

Mr. Derks is a partner with the firm and represents clients in matters ranging from contractual and tort claims to business losses and major construction liability and defect litigation. He has successfully defended products liability, commercial and business litigation and premises liability cases. Paul currently handles a broad range of civil defense litigation matters. Approximately seventy-five percent of his practice is dedicated to litigation. Paul represents both large and small business entities and individuals who find themselves involved in construction, products, premises and personal injury matters. Paul represents clientele from all segments of the construction industry and, in doing so, has handled matters involving all types of construction law issues. He practices in state and federal trial courts, appellate courts, arbitration and mediation. Paul regularly counsels clients in out-of-court resolution of disputes and interpretation of construction contracts.

In recognition of his accomplishments in the practice of law, Paul was recently named by Texas Super Lawyer magazine as a Rising Star for 2011, an honor conferred on less than five percent of attorneys under the age of 40 in the state of Texas.

COURT ADMISSIONS

- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Oklahoma
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- State Bar of Texas
- Oklahoma Bar Association
- Dallas Bar Association
- Texas Association of Defense Counsel
- Defense Research Institute
- DBA Construction Law Section

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS & SIGNIFICANT CASES

- *Anland Block C v. Stamack Construction*. Defended general contractor for Bliss Spa in multi-million dollar claim allegedly caused by plumbing line leaks during the construction of the W Hotel in Dallas.
- *Episcopal High School v. Melton Electric*. Defended subcontractor in \$25 million arbitration claim and was successful in obtaining summary judgment and attorneys' fees on behalf of client.
- *Harlingen Medical Center v. Faulkner Construction, Inc.* Counsel representing general contractor in a multimillion-dollar dispute involving the construction of the Harlingen Medical Center.
- *Gene D. Yost & Son, Inc. v. Ingersoll-Rand, et al.* Counsel representing supplier of a component part incorporated into a mobile drilling rig destroyed in a fire allegedly arising from defective products incorporated in the rig.
- *Rose Johnson, et al. v. Journeyman Construction, L.P.* Counsel representing general contractor on jobsite where a fatality arose involving uncapped rebar and allegations of multimillion-dollar damages.
- *Boynton v. Hayward Baker, Inc.* Counsel defending claims involving alleged movement of soil underneath Plaintiff's residential foundation.
- *Milton v. Trizec et al.* Counsel representing Dallas Galleria in premises liability action.

REPORTED OPINIONS

- *Mr. Derks' reported cases include Brown v. State Farm Fire and Cas. Co., 58 P.3d at 217 (Okla. Civ. App. 2002) and Meghan Coves Ass'n v. Meghan Coves Prop., et al., 50 P.3d 226 (Okla. Civ. App. 2002).*