



Kennon L. Wooten

PARTNER

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Overview

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Kennon joined the firm in 2011, after working as the rules attorney for the Supreme Court of Texas, an associate at Baker Botts LLP, and a law clerk to former Chief Justice Wallace B. Jefferson of the Supreme Court of Texas. Her service as the rules attorney gives her a unique understanding of statewide and local rules of practice and procedure, as well as the disciplinary standards that govern lawyers who practice in Texas. She has published books and law-review articles on Texas discovery practices.

Kennon's law practice focuses on general civil litigation and complex commercial litigation. She also handles appeals periodically and advises clients on rule-related matters, including ethical obligations. She has represented a broad range of clients, including governmental entities, businesses (foreign and domestic), lawyers, judges, and individuals. At the trial level, she represents plaintiffs and defendants. To appeals, she brings experience handling appeals, as well as

experience gained as a law clerk, the rules attorney, and an intern to Justice Mack Kidd of the Third Court of Appeals.

Kennon is also dedicated to serving the community. She does pro bono work regularly. She has served as a member of the Texas Commission to Expand Civil Legal Services, a member of the Supreme Court of Texas Task Force for Rules in Expedited Actions, the President of the Austin Bar Association, the President of the Austin Young Lawyers Association, the Chair of the Austin Bar Foundation, the Chair of the State Bar's Court Rules Committee, the Editor-in-Chief for Austin Lawyer, a board member for Texas Folklife and Austin Friends of Traditional Music, and a board member and secretary for the Texas Legal Services Center. She currently serves as Chair of the State Bar of Texas Board of Directors and as a member of the American Law Institute, the Texas Supreme Court Advisory Committee, the Editorial Board for The Advocate, the Supreme Court of Texas Remote Proceedings Task Force, the State Bar's Board of Directors, the Texas Access to Justice Commission, and the Austin Bar Association's Equity Committee.

Experience

Assist nonparties in responding to discovery requests.

Assist entities and individuals with amicus curiae briefs filed in trial and appellate courts.

Represent a hospital district in litigation relating to the provision of care to individuals with low income.

Represent local governmental entity in Senate Bill 4 litigation against the Texas AG.

Prevailed on an application for temporary injunction relating to voting rights and the Texas Election Code.

Served as co-lead trial counsel in a premises-liability case that resulted in a jury verdict for the plaintiff.

Represented lawyers in cases involving legal-malpractice and breach-of-fiduciary duty claims and negotiated settlements of said cases.

Represented entities in cases involving alleged products liability and other tort claims.

Represented individuals and entities in cases involving alleged Medicaid fraud.

Represented individuals and entities in cases involving alleged breach of contracts and in cases seeking declaratory relief.

Prepared briefs filed in Texas courts of appeals and the Supreme Court of Texas and achieved successful outcomes on appeal, both with and without oral argument.

Advised individuals and entities on interpretation and application of procedural and ethics rules in Texas.

Negotiated successful business divorces to resolve shareholder disputes.

Represent individuals pro bono in divorce proceedings and suits affecting the parent-child relationship, and help them dissolve marriages and obtain desired parental plans.

Awards

- Austin Bar Foundation Joseph C. Parker, Jr. Diversity Award, 2022
- National Conference of Bar Presidents (NCBP) "President's Page Award," 2021
- State Bar of Texas Pro Bono College, 2007, 2015, 2018 – 2020
- Chambers USA Band 1 recognized practitioner in Litigation: General Commercial, Texas: Austin & Surrounds, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024
- Austin Monthly, Austin's Top Attorneys 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 in Civil Litigation
- Travis County Women Lawyers Association (TCWLA) Litigation/Appellate Attorney Award, 2018
- State Bar of Texas "Standing Ovation" Volunteer Award, 2017
- Texas Rising Star, a Thomson Reuters business, 2008, 2009, 2013 – 2017
- Texas Super Lawyers, General Litigation, 2019 – 2024
- Top 50 Women Texas Super Lawyers, 2024
- Top 50 Central/West Texas Super Lawyers, 2024
- Austin Bar Association President's Award of Merit, 2017
- Austin Bar Association Outstanding Director Award, 2015
- AYL A President's Award of Merit, 2011
- Special Commendation of the Supreme Court of Texas and State Bar of Texas, 2011
- State Bar of Texas Presidential Citation, 2010
- AYL A Outstanding Director Award, 2009
- Phi Beta Kappa

Articles & Presentations

- Betty Balli Torres and Kennon L. Wooten, Paraprofessionals and Court-Access Assistants: Learn About Proposed Rules, Zoom presentation to the Hispanic Issues Section of the State Bar of Texas, October 31, 2024
- Kennon L. Wooten, Rules Update, presented at TMCP, Austin, October 24, 2024
- Kennon L. Wooten, Rules Update, presented at the UT System 24th Annual Legal Conference, September 26, 2024

- Brandy Wingate Voss, Dana Levy, and Kennon L. Wooten, Supreme Court of Texas Update, presented at the 40th Annual State Bar of Texas Advanced Personal Injury Course, San Antonio, July 17, 2024 and Houston, September 25, 2024
- Judge Mark Lane, Judge Daniella DeSeta Lyttle, Judge Eric Sheppard, and Kennon L. Wooten, Opening Act: Persuasion in Opening Statements, Austin Bar Association Civil Litigation Section's 19th Annual Ultimate Trial Notebook, Austin, September 20, 2024.
- Kennon L. Wooten, Rules Update, presented at the 16th Annual State Bar of Texas Business Disputes Course, Austin, September 19, 2024.
- Justice Brett Busby and Kennon L. Wooten, A Texas Case Study, Virtual Multijurisdictional Limited License Roundtable, September 17, 2024.
- Judge Grant Dorfman, Marcy Hogan Greer, and Kennon L. Wooten, The New Texas Business Court: A Primer on Structure, Jurisdiction, and Procedure, State Bar of Texas Webcast, August 14, 2024
- Kennon L. Wooten, Rules Update, presented at State Bar of Texas 47th Annual Advanced Civil Trial CLE, Dallas, July 10, 2024, and Houston, October 23, 2024
- Kennon L. Wooten, Judicial Rulemaking, presented at the International Legislative Drafting Institute, New Orleans, June 14, 2024
- Sara Nicolas, Kennon L. Wooten, and Marcy Hogan Greer, Saddle Up! We Mean Business [Court]!; presented at the Austin Bar Association Civil Litigation Section CLE Luncheon, May 20, 2024
- Kennon L. Wooten, Rules Update; presented at the David H. Hockema Civil Trial Course on May 2, 2024
- Kennon L. Wooten, Rules Update; presented at the Capital Area Paralegal Association's 10th Annual Spring CLE Seminar on April 12, 2024
- CLE Planning Committee, State Bar of Texas 47th Annual Advanced Civil Trial Course (2024)
- Guest Lecturer for UT School of Law Texas Civil Procedure Course, February 27, 2024 & March 25, 2024
- Kennon L. Wooten, Rules Update; presented at the 13th Annual State Bar Advanced Trial Strategies Course on February 15, 2024
- Course Director, State Bar of Texas 46th Annual Advanced Civil Trial Course, Houston, October 4-6, 2023.
- Chad Baruch & Kennon L. Wooten; U.S. Supreme Court Update; presentation through State Bar of Texas to solo and small-firm practitioners on September 28, 2023.
- Robert K. Tobey & Kennon Wooten; Contracting for and Collecting Ethical Attorneys' Fees; State Bar of Texas webcast; September 12, 2023.
- Kennon L. Wooten, Procedure Update: A Review of Recent Developments in Procedural Rules That May Impact Your Appellate Practice, presented at 33rd Annual Conference on State and Federal Appeals, Austin, June 8, 2023
- Judge Catherine Mauzy, Judge Laurie Eiserloh, Heidi Coughlin, Blair Leake & Kennon Wooten, Discrediting Experts Through Discovery; presentation at the 2023 Bench Bar Conference on May 5, 2023.
- Robert K. Wise, Kennon L. Wooten, & Francesca A. Di Troia, Texas Discovery: A Practitioner's Guide to Taking and Resisting Discovery Under the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure (Full Court Press 2022).
- Kennon L. Wooten & Martha G. Newton, Rules Update and "TRAPs"; presentation to the Austin Bar Association's Civil Appellate Section on February 16, 2023.

- Anita Kawaja & Kennon L. Wooten, The Texas Attorney Disciplinary Process (AKA The Grievance System); presented at UT School of Law's 38th Annual School Law Conference on February 10, 2023.
- Kennon L. Wooten & Giana Ortiz, TRCP Overview: Process, Recent Changes, and Considerations for Chapter 42 Appeals; presented at the 35th Annual Legal Seminar on Ad Valorem Taxation, August 26, 2022.
- Chief Justice Tracy K. Christopher & Kennon L. Wooten, Remote Proceedings Task Force Update: An Overview of Origin, Work Product, and Anticipated Next Steps; presented at the State Bar of Texas 45th Annual Advanced Civil Trial Seminar on July 6, 2022 and August 17, 2022.
- Kennon L. Wooten, Discovery Rules Update: What's New in the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure; presentation to Williamson County paralegals on May 19, 2022.
- Judge Maya Guerra Gamble & Kennon Wooten, DEI & Civility Panel Discussion; presented at State Bar of Texas Advanced Workers' Compensation Law CLE on August 26, 2021.
- Kennon L. Wooten, Rules Update: An Overview of New Procedural Rules and How They Affect Our Practice; presented at the State Bar of Texas Litigation Section CLE course on July 13, 2021.
- Kennon L. Wooten, Rules Update: An Overview of New Procedural Rules and How They Affect Our Practice; presented at UT Law's first E-Discovery Essentials course on April 20, 2021.
- Chief Justice Christopher, Quentin Smith, and Kennon L. Wooten, Remote Proceedings: What's the New Normal, and What Comes Next?; panel presentation at UT Law's 2021 Annual Page Keeton Civil Litigation Conference on April 22, 2021.
- Regular contributor to Austin Lawyer, a publication of the Austin Bar Association.
- Kennon L. Wooten, Anne M. Johnson, and Sarah A. Nicolas, Rules Update: What's New with the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure and Texas Rules of Appellate Procedure; presented with Anne M. Johnson at State Bar of Texas' 10th Annual Advanced Trial Strategies Course on February 5, 2021.
- Kennon L. Wooten, 2021 Rules Update: What's New in the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure; presented to the Austin Bar Association's Family Law Section on January 20, 2021 and as part of the Austin Bar Association's Free CLE Series on January 15, 2021.
- Travis County Women Lawyers' Association, Wellness for Women Lawyers During Stressful Times; panelist for membership meeting on May 20, 2020.
- Austin Bar Association, Landlord-Tenant Issues and COVID-19; moderator for panel presentation on April 24, 2020.
- Robert K. Wise and Kennon L. Wooten, The Practitioner's Guide to Properly Responding to Requests for Disclosure Under the Texas Discovery Rules, 50 St. Mary's L.J. 601 (2019).
- Texas Access to Justice Commission & Texas Access to Justice Foundation, Access to Justice: Breaking Barriers and Creating Solutions; presented at Justice Baker Guide to Ethics and Professionalism in Texas (for new Texas lawyers) on October 17, 2019.
- Robert K. Wise and Kennon L. Wooten, A Guide to Taking and Resisting Discovery Under the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure (Tex. Lawyer 2019).
- Robert K. Wise and Kennon L. Wooten, Dos and Don'ts of Discovery in Texas Proceedings; presented at the Austin Bar Association's Fourth Friday CLE Presentation on April 26, 2019.
- Kennon L. Wooten & Robyn Hargrove, Permissive Interlocutory Appeals and Mandamus: Picking Your Procedural Path Prudently, 30 APPELLATE ADVOC.: STATE BAR APPELLATE. SEC. REP. 444 (2019).

- Wendy K. L. Harvel, Christina J. Hymer, and Kennon L. Wooten, *Avoiding Ethical Dry Holes – Ethics and Administrative Law*; presented at Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation Special Institute on Natural Resources Development and the Administrative State: Navigating Federal Agency Regulation and Litigation on March 1, 2019.
- Kennon L. Wooten, *Ethical Considerations for Common Situations: Representing Entities and Communicating with Other Parties and their Counsel*; presented at the Austin Bar Association's 2018 Holiday Ethics Free CLE on December 7, 2018.
- Kennon L. Wooten, *Using Alternative Fee Arrangements to Make More Money and Help More People*; State Bar of Texas webcast presented with Paula Pierce, Donivan Flowers, and MacKenzie Dunham on November 28, 2018.
- Kennon L. Wooten and Robyn Hargrove, *Permissive Interlocutory Appeals and Mandamus: Picking Your Procedural Path Prudently*; presented at the 32nd Annual Civil Appellate Practice Course on September 7, 2018.
- Kennon L. Wooten and David Shank, *Ethics for Business Lawyers: An Overview of Considerations for Common Situations*; presented with David Shank at the UT School of Law 27th Annual LLC, LPs and Partnerships Course on July 13, 2018.
- Kennon L. Wooten and Anne Johnson, *Rule 91a Dismissals and Appeals*; presented with Anne Johnson at the 28th Annual Conference on State and Federal Appeals on June 14, 2018.
- Austin Bar Association Mentoring Program Presentation: *Writing and Publication Tips*, January 23, 2018.
- Kennon L. Wooten and Anthony Arguijo, *Rule 91a Dismissal Procedures: Basic Considerations and Unanswered Questions*, 80 *ADVOC.: STATE BAR LITIG. SEC. REP.* 60 (2017).
- Kennon L. Wooten, *Mastering Electronic Discovery: Proportionality is the Polestar, and Metadata May Not Be 'the New Black' After All*, 26 *Austin Lawyer* 26 (2017).
- Robert K. Wise and Kennon L. Wooten, *The Practitioner's Guide to Properly Taking and Defending Depositions Under the Texas Discovery Rules*, 68 *Baylor L. Rev.* 402 (2016).
- Robert K. Wise and Kennon L. Wooten, *A Guide to Taking and Resisting Discovery Under the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure* (Tex. Lawyer 2016).
- Kennon L. Wooten and John W. Ellis, *Recent Developments in Texas Spoliation Law*; presented at a Travis County Women's Lawyers Association CLE luncheon on November 16, 2016.
- Kennon L. Wooten, *Dismissal Procedures Under Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 91a*; presented at the Harris County Civil District Judges' CLE Program on August 2, 2016.
- Kennon L. Wooten, Cindy Saiter, and Carlos Soltero, *Dismissal Procedures Under Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 91a*; presented at the 39th Annual Advanced Civil Trial Course on July 13, 2016.
- Kennon L. Wooten and Cindy Saiter, *Dismissal Procedures Under Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 91a*; presented at the 26th Annual Conference on State and Federal Appeals, June 10, 2016.
- Chief Justice Nathan L. Hecht, Martha G. Newton and Kennon L. Wooten, *How Texas Court Rules are Made* (May 13, 2016), presented with Chief Justice Hecht and Ms. Newton on May 17, 2016, during the State Bar of Texas webcast entitled "The Texas Supreme Court Rulemaking Process: Historical Perspectives and Practice Pointers.
- Kennon L. Wooten, *Texas Trial Rules Update*; presented at The State Bar of Texas Business Disputes Seminar on September 11, 2015.
- Kennon L. Wooten, *Expedited Actions and Dismissal Rules*; presented by Rules Attorney Martha Newton at the State Bar College 16th Annual Summer School on July 17, 2014.

- Kennon L. Wooten, Rules Update: What's New and What's Around the Corner; presented at the State Bar of Texas Advanced Evidence and Discovery Seminar on April 4, 2014 and May 23, 2014.
- Steve McConnico, Robyn Hargrove, and Kennon L. Wooten, Legal Malpractice in Texas: Common Issues, Recent Developments, and Unresolved Issues; presented with Steve McConnico at the 2014 Civil Justice Conference on May 8, 2014.
- Steve McConnico and Kennon L. Wooten, The Basics and Nuances of Fiduciary Litigation; presented with Steve McConnico at the 2013 Civil Justice Conference on October 14, 2013.
- Kennon L. Wooten, Disqualification and Recusal Motions: What to Do When Seeking the Removal of a Judge or Opposing Counsel From a Case; presented at the Ultimate Motions Practice 2013, September 20, 2013.
- Kennon L. Wooten, Business Litigation Under the New Texas Expedited Actions Process; presented at the State Bar of Texas Business Disputes CLE on September 12, 2013.
- The New Dismissal Rule and Rules for Expedited Actions: Tips and Traps for the Unwary; presented with fellow panelists and a moderator via the State Bar of Texas webcast on March 19, 2013.
- Kennon L. Peterson, Proposed Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct: An Overview of the Amendment Process and a Comparison of the Proposed Rules with the American Bar Association Model Rules of Professional Conduct, 23 APP. ADVOC.: STATE BAR APP. SEC. REP. 268 (2011).
- Kennon L. Peterson, Proposed Amendments to the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct: Brief Background and Explanation, 73 Tex. B.J. 894 (2010), 72 Tex. B.J. 844 (2009) (original).
- Sofia Adrogué and Kennon L. Peterson, Texas Trailblazers and Their Texas-Sized Balancing of Professional and Personal Success, 49 ADVOC.: STATE BAR LITIG. SEC. REP. 30 (2009).

News & Insights

- Wooten and Hargrove Publish Article in The Appellate Advocate
- The Top Women Attorneys in Texas 2020 - Super Lawyers
- SDM ranked Band 1 in 2020 Chambers USA
- City of San Antonio - Sanctuary City
- Kennon Wooten Appointed to Texas Supreme Court Task Force
- SDM Ranked Band 1 in Chambers USA 2021
- SDM Women Recognized on Austin Monthly's Top Attorneys List
- Congrats to our 2021 Texas Super Lawyers
- Chambers Guide Continues to Rank SDM in Top Tier
- Congrats to our 2022 Texas Super Lawyers
- SDM contributes highest amount in Texas Access to Justice Commission campaign
- Top Attorneys named by Austin Monthly Magazine
- Kennon Wooten selected chair-elect of State Bar of Texas Board of Directors

- Chambers Guide Continues to Rank SDM in Top Tier
- Congrats to our 2023 Texas Super Lawyers
- Chambers Guide notes SDM as "a go-to litigation boutique in Austin."
- Congrats to our SDM 2024 Texas Super Lawyers

Practice Areas

- Appellate
- Business Litigation & Torts
- Governmental Entity Litigation
- Personal Injury & Products Liability
- Pharmaceutical & Medical Device
- Professional Malpractice, Licensing & Regulation

Education

- University of Texas School of Law, J.D. with honors, 2004
- University of Texas at Austin, B.A., Psychology, with highest honors, 1999

Admissions

- State Bar of Texas
- U.S. District Courts for the Eastern, Western, Northern, and Southern Districts of Texas

Activities

- Member, State Bar of Texas Board of Directors, 2021 – present
- Member, Texas Access to Justice Commission, 2021 – present
- Member, American Law Institute, 2017 – present
- Member, Supreme Court Advisory Committee, 2017 – present
- Ex Officio Member, Supreme Court Advisory Committee, 2016 – 2017
- Chair, Austin Bar Foundation Board, 2021 – 2022
- Editorial Board Member, The Advocate, 2008 – present
- Member, Austin Bar Foundation Board, 2019 – present

- Austin Bar Association
 - President, 2020 – 2021
 - Officer Positions, 2017 – 2020
 - Board Member, 2013 – 2022
 - Member, Equity Committee, 2020 – present
 - Chair, Publications/Website Committee, 2013 – 2019
 - Editor-in-Chief, Austin Lawyer, 2013 – 2019

- Member, Travis County Women Lawyers Association, 2011 – present
- Member, State Bar Standing Committee on Court Rules, 2011 – 2021
- Chair, State Bar Standing Committee on Court Rules, 2016 – 2018
- Vice Chair, State Bar Standing Committee on Court Rules, 2014 – 2016
- Member, Texas Commission to Expand Civil Legal Services, 2015 – 2017
- President, Austin Young Lawyers Association, 2012 – 2013
- Board Member, Austin Young Lawyers Association, 2007 – 2014
- Member, Supreme Court of Texas Task Force for Rules in Expedited Actions, 2011 – 2012
- Member, Austin Bar Association Appellate Council, 2009 – 2011
- CLE Involvement
 - Planning Committee Member, 2021 UT School of Law CLE on E-Discovery Essentials
 - Planning Committee Member, 2019 State Bar of Texas Annual Business Disputes Course
 - Course Director, 2019 State Bar of Texas Civil Appellate Practice 101 Course
 - Course Director, 2018 State Bar of Texas Business Disputes Course
 - Planning Committee Member, 2018 State Bar of Texas Advanced Civil Appellate Practice Course
 - Planning Committee Member, 2017 State Bar of Texas Annual Advanced Business Law Course

Community and Charitable Organizations

- At Large Board Member, Capital Area Democratic Women
- Member, League of Women Voters of Texas (Austin area)
- Secretary, Texas Legal Services Center
- Board Member, Texas Legal Services Center
- Friar, University of Texas at Austin Friar Society
- Former Board Member, Texas Folklife, 2005 – 2009
- Former Board Member, Austin Friends of Traditional Music, 2005 – 2006