

Brent A. Turman

Partner

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LEVERAGING A BACKGROUND IN FILM AND TELEVISION PRODUCTION, BRENT KNOWS HOW TO COMMUNICATE COMPELLING ARGUMENTS THAT TELL CLIENTS' STORIES TO THE JURY WITH CLARITY AND PERSUASION. HE IS NO STRANGER TO RESOLVING CONTENTIOUS DISPUTES AND HELPING HIS CLIENTS PROTECT THEIR ASSETS AND INTELLECTUAL CAPITAL.

Brent advocates for clients, including high-net-worth individuals and startups to Fortune 50 companies, in a wide variety of business and intellectual property disputes. He has represented clients in complex arbitration and litigation related to business disputes; real estate transactions; civil RICO actions; and claims of patent, copyright and trademark infringement.

In addition to his trial and dispute resolution experience, Brent has served as production counsel for films produced in Texas and helps clients in the entertainment, media and sports industries navigate contracts, negotiations and business disputes.

A popular speaker, Brent frequently gives trial skills presentations across the country, teaching other attorneys about the strategies and tools he has used in the courtroom.

Before Brent's legal career, he was an Associate Operations Producer for ESPN/ABC College Football. In addition, Brent produced commercials, industrial videos, in-arena entertainment, and music videos for clients throughout North America. He continues to use this experience to craft compelling narratives for juries. Outside of the office, Brent produces short films and worked as a Remote Producer for the XFL's re-launch in 2020.

Practices

Litigation

Entertainment, Advertising and Media

Real Estate Law

Intellectual Property

International

Industries

Sports and Entertainment

Representative Experience

Sports and Entertainment

- Secured a jury verdict finding that the client was a partner in the entity that initially published the "Fifty Shades of Grey" trilogy books and a ruling that entitled the client to more than \$13.2 million in royalties, interest and attorneys' fees.
- Obtained a \$10.3 million summary judgment for an entity that loaned funds for the production of a feature film distributed by a major studio.
- Represented multiple university presses when approached to option film or television rights to books.

Intellectual Property Disputes

- Played crucial role in securing a unanimous defense verdict in favor of a manufacturer of downhole sand and gas separation products in a \$4.5 million patent infringement suit.
- As lead briefing attorney, persuaded a federal judge to quash notice of deposition for a Fortune 50 CEO and dismiss claims for trademark infringement and business disparagement.

Business Disputes

- Secured the denial of an application for a temporary restraining order filed against a business intelligence consulting firm CEO.
- Represented, as part of a legal team, an LLC and one of its members in claims against a large, Chinese state-owned enterprise, as well as several of its "subsidiaries." In pursuing the arbitration claim, the team also defended its clients in two federal proceedings in the Northern District of Texas, one federal proceeding in the Northern District of California, one proceeding in the Delaware Court of Chancery, and one appeal to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. The panel awarded the claimants more than \$68 million (confirmed in 2018).
- Led the team that obtained multiple, favorable settlements on behalf of a campus safety and student conduct software provider against several public and private universities around the United States.

- Ensured that a claimant received \$0 in future medical damages in arbitration involving alleged negligent supervision regarding an explosive device at the workplace.
- Obtained summary judgment for a large residential developer in a negligence action.
- Obtained summary judgment for a water park after oral argument, defeating the plaintiff's premises liability action.

Noteworthy

- Named to "Best Lawyers Under 40 in Dallas" List, *D Magazine*, 2021–2024
- Selected by attorney peers for inclusion as Texas Rising Star® for Business Litigation, *Thomson Reuters*, 2017–2022
- Named to "Ones to Watch" List, *The Best Lawyers in America*®, 2021
- Best Short Film, AutomaCon Short Film Festival, 2018
- Best Drama, Wildwood Film Festival, 2018
- Best Director, Universal Film Festival, 2014
- Eagle Scout

Activities and Memberships

- Dallas Regional Chamber
 - Leadership Dallas Class, 2023
- State Bar of Texas
 - Entertainment & Sports Law Section, Chair
 - Texas State Bar College, Member
 - Entertainment Law Institute, Planning Committee Member, 2018, 2020-22
- American Bar Association Forum on the Entertainment & Sports Law Industries
 - Litigation Division, Member
- Highland Park United Methodist Church Day School

- Advisory Board, Former Member
- Greater East Dallas Chamber of Commerce
 - Executive Board, Legal Counsel
- Texas Association of Motion Media Professionals
 - Former President
- Dallas Bar Association
 - Entertainment Art & Sports Law Section, Former Chair, 2016
- Women Texas Film Festival
 - Advisory Board, Former Member
- *D Magazine* Young Leaders Network
 - Member
- Dallas Producers Association
 - Producer Member
- SMU Meadows Alumni Advisory Council
 - Member
- Texas UIL Young Filmmakers Festival
 - Judge
- USA Film Festival
 - Judge

Publications

- "Perspectives: Where the buck might stop: Broker liability for lack of coverage on live-event COVID-19 cancellations," *Business Insurance Magazine*, co-author; March 4, 2022.
- "Scarlett Johansson's Disney Lawsuit Could Change How Actors Are Paid," *Backstage Magazine*, quoted; August 25, 2021.

- "Biometrics in the COVID Era Workplace: Is Your Business Compliant?" *D Magazine*, co-author; November 19, 2020.
- "Pandemic brings bankruptcy, big losses to these two D-FW-based movie theater chains," *Dallas Morning News*, quoted; November 2020.
- "Movie theaters in jeopardy as studios move blockbusters to 2021, audiences stay home," *CNBC*, quoted; September 29, 2020.
- "The Effect of COVID-19 on Existing Litigation," Bell Nunnally Client Alert, co-author; May 20, 2020.
- "Emerging COVID-Specific Business Interruption Litigation Issues in Texas," Bell Nunnally Client Alert, co-author; May 8, 2020.
- "The Evolution of the Texas Anti-SLAPP Statute," Dallas Bar Association *Headnotes*, author; April 16, 2020.
- "Brief Intermission: A Preview of the Theater Business After COVID-19," Bell Nunnally Client Alert, author; March 30, 2020.
- "What Employers Need to Know About Using Biometric Technology," *Dallas Business Journal*, co-author; October 2, 2019.
- "How Changes in Texas Anti-SLAPP Statute Affect the Entertainment Industry," *Entertainment Law & Finance*, author; 2019.
- "The Right to Tweet," *DBA Headnotes*, author; May 2019.
- "Are Handshake Deals in the Entertainment Biz on Shaky Ground?" *The Texas Lawbook*, co-author; October 2018.
- "Are You in a Business Partnership and Don't Know It?" *Dallas Business Journal*, author; June 2018.
- "Lifting the Veil on Sponsored Social Media Influencer Posts," Dallas Bar Association *Headnotes*, author; March 2018.
- "Defamation Mitigation Act Can Extend Deadlines Under the Texas Anti-SLAPP Statute," *Texas Entertainment & Sports Law Newsletter*; 2018.
- "Texas Film Commission Director Chops Down Machete's Allegations," *Texas Entertainment & Sports Law Newsletter*; 2015.
- "DIY Media Distribution: Eliminating the Middleman," Dallas Bar Association *Headnotes*; 2014.
- "Guilds and Unions in a Right-to-Work State," *Entertainment Law Institute*; 2014.

Presentations

- "Ethics Lessons from HBO's Succession," The Texas Association of Mediators Professional Development Conference, presenter; March 15, 2024.
- "Chatting ChatGPT," 33rd Annual Entertainment Law Institute, co-presenter; November 9, 2023.
- "Ethics Lessons from HBO's Succession," American Bar Association's 45th Annual Conference - Forum on Entertainment and Sports Industries, co-presenter; October 6, 2023.
- "Astroworld Aftermath: Litigation and Its Impact on the Live Events Industry," Asian Pacific Interest Section of the State Bar of Texas Annual Conference and Celebration, co-presenter; April 28-29, 2023.
- "Ethics Lessons from HBO's Succession," King County Bar Association; February 22, 2023.
- "Astroworld Aftermath: Litigation and Its Impact on the Live Events Industry," Houston Bar Association Litigation Section, co-presenter; February 7, 2023.
- "Litigation Roundtable on the *Depp v. Heard* Trial," Texas Bar 32nd Annual Entertainment Law Institute; November 10, 2022.
- "Protecting Your Company's Most Important Assets," TechFW; September 20, 2022.
- "Astroworld Aftermath: Litigation and Its Impact on the Live Events Industry," Tarrant County Trial Lawyers Association, Collin County Bar Association, State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting and Dallas Bar Association; 2022.
- "Ethics Lessons from HBO's Succession," New Orleans Bar Association's Procrastinators' Programs, Texas General Counsel Forum, Dallas Bar Association Bench Bar Conference, Louisville Bar Association, State Bar of Nevada, Birmingham Bar Association, Amarillo Area Bar Association, Dallas Association of Young Lawyers, multiple law firm litigation sections across the country; 2022.
- "What Kanye West Can Teach Us About Litigation," California Lawyers Association, Louisville Bar Association, Texas Association of Defense Counsel, Birmingham Bar Association, Mobile Bar Association Civil Litigation Section, Denton County Bar Association, New Mexico Trial Law Institute, New Orleans Bar Association Procrastinators Program, Dallas Bar Association Bench Bar Conference, Italian American Attorney Association of Los Angeles, Southern California Chinese Lawyers Association, Amarillo Area Bar Association, Corpus Christi Bar Association Young Lawyers, Memphis Bar Association Intellectual Property Section, District of Columbia Bar Litigation Community, Santa Monica Bar Association, State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting, State Bar of Nevada Entertainment Law Section, King County Bar Association (x2), New Orleans Bar Association (x3), Multnomah Bar Association, Dallas Association of Young Lawyers, Tarrant County Young Lawyers Association, New Orleans Bar Association, various law firm litigation sections; 2019–2022.
- "[Litigation Psychology Podcast: Inspired by Kanye](#)," Courtroom Sciences, Inc.; April 12, 2021.

- "[Litigation Psychology Podcast: Storytelling in Litigation](#)," Courtroom Sciences, Inc.; 2021.
- "Litigating Partnership Disputes," King County Bar Association, New Orleans Bar Association, Oklahoma Bar Association Litigation Section; 2019–2021.
- "The Future of Theatrical Exhibition," Entertainment Law Institute; 2021.
- "Combatting Sexual Harassment on Film Sets," Women Texas Film Festival; 2020.
- "Legal Issues Impacting the Live Event and Entertainment Industries in the Wake of COVID-19," State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting, Dallas Bar Association, Tarrant County Young Lawyers Association; 2020.
- "Using Social Media Evidence at Trial," SMU Dedman School of Law, guest lecture; 2019.
- "Litigation in the Film and Media Industries," University of Texas Arlington, guest lecture; 2019.
- "[What Kanye Can Teach us About Litigation](#)," State Bar of Texas Podcast; 2019.
- "The State of the Art Law in Dallas," Dallas Bar Association, legal panel; 2019.
- "A Content Creator's Guide to Staying out of the Courtroom: Defamation and Business Disparagement in Texas," Entertainment Law Institute; 2018.
- "Obeying Terms of Use When Conducting Business on Social Media," SMU Dedman School of Law, Guest Lecture; 2018.
- "Editing: Finding the Story and Editing Ethically," Docu Fest, Legal Panel; 2018.
- "Legal Issues in Filmmaking," Women Texas Film Festival, Legal Panel; 2018.
- "Top 10 Video Game Decisions: From Donkey Kong to eSports," Texas State Bar Annual Meeting; 2018.
- "After the Handshake Deal: Proving What's Not in Writing," Austin Bar Association: Business, Corporate, & Tax Law Section; 2018.
- "Fifty Shades of Greed: A Case Study on Partnership by Conduct," Entertainment Law Institute, Houston Bar Association; 2016–2017.
- "Art Law Roundtable," Arts Counsel Texas, legal panel, 2017.
- "Success in the Screenwriting Business," The Dallas Screenwriters Association, panelist; 2017.
- "Script to Screen: Legal Issues Relating to Filmmaking," Arts Counsel Texas Lunch & Learn; 2017.
- "Entertainment Law Practitioners Panel," SMU Dedman School of Law SELA; 2017.
- "The Book of Sanctions: Enforcement of NCAA Bylaws," Dallas Bar Association, legal panel; 2016.

- "Lights, Camera, Action: Legal Issues Affecting Film Festivals," Dallas Bar Association, legal panel; 2016.
- "Why I Learned to Love Contracts," Arts Counsel Texas Lunch & Learn; 2016.

Credentials

Education

- JD, Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law, *cum laude*, 2012
- BBA & BA, Southern Methodist University, *cum laude*, 2007

Admissions

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