

Troy "T.J." Hales

Partner

thales@bellnunnally.com

214-740-1456



SOMETIMES AN AGGRESSIVE TRIAL STRATEGY IS THE BEST PATH FORWARD. SOMETIMES AN EARLY RESOLUTION WILL BEST SERVE A CLIENT'S BUSINESS OR PERSONAL INTERESTS. IN ALMOST ALL CASES, POST-JUDGMENT PROCESSES ARE KEY. WHATEVER THE SITUATION, T.J. UNDERSTANDS THAT FORMING SOUND STRATEGIES REQUIRES LISTENING TO AND HEARING A CLIENT'S NEEDS, GOALS AND RISK TOLERANCE. IT'S WITH THIS EMPATHY THAT HE DESIGNS THE BEST SOLUTIONS TO HELP CLIENTS GET PAST THEIR PROBLEMS EFFICIENTLY, SO THEY CAN MOVE ON WITH THE LEAST DISRUPTION POSSIBLE.

T.J. approaches his cases in an organized and pragmatic manner, and he has substantial experience advocating for clients in state and federal courts at all stages, including on appeal. T.J. is experienced in complex cases—he frequently advises clients in matters involving regulatory, construction and real estate issues, including landlord-tenant disputes, purchase and sale agreements, boundary and title issues, and other related contract claims. He also has experience handling cases in both bankruptcy and post-judgment contexts.

For employers, T.J. advises in various aspects of labor and employment law, including discrimination, harassment, arbitration agreements, class-action waivers, employee privacy and biometrics compliance.

Prior to private practice, T.J. clerked with the Hon. Christine A. Nowak in the Eastern District of Texas and completed a public interest fellowship at the Muslim Legal Fund of America (f/k/a Constitutional Law Center for Muslims in America), where he worked on criminal and civil litigation matters. In addition, during law school, he externed with the Hon. Amos L. Mazzant in the Eastern District of Texas.

Representative Experience

- Secured a final arbitration award of more than \$3.16 million for a solar energy construction contractor.
- Successfully fended off a request for preliminary injunction in a matter related to the music of a prominent deceased musical artist.

- Obtained temporary restraining order and injunction on behalf of estate of deceased musical artist to impound tracks of artist's voice.
- Assisted developer with resolving several lien claims, including constitutional lien claim against mixed use development.
- Assisted design professionals in securing payment for several past due amounts from contractors.
- Resolved a construction and real estate dispute valued at more than \$1 million by initiating in parallel a federal lawsuit and arbitration proceedings against a general contractor in a storm reconstruction project. In the resulting settlement, the client was paid more than 90% of the value of the claim.
- Secured settlement and agreed judgment for construction rental company for the entire amount of the six-figure claim against debtor's guarantors after debtor filed for bankruptcy protection.

Noteworthy

- Named to *The Best Lawyers in America*® "Ones to Watch" List, 2021–2025.
- Selected by attorney peers for inclusion in *Texas Super Lawyers Rising Stars*®, Thomson Reuters, 2023–2024.
- Recipient, Wilson W. Herndon Memorial Award for highest grade in antitrust class, Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law.

Activities and Memberships

- Association of Former Law Clerks of the Eastern District of Texas
 - Member
- Leadership Council on Legal Diversity
 - Fellow, 2024
 - Pathfinder, 2019
- Bell Nunnally Diversity and Inclusion Committee
 - Co-Chair
- State Bar of Texas' Real Estate, Probate, and Trust Law (REPTL) Section
 - Leadership Academy, 2024–2025

- Urban Land Institute
 - Member
- Dallas Regional Chamber
 - Member
 - LEAD YP Program
- Dallas LGBT Bar Association
 - Member
 - Board of Directors, former
- Dallas Bar Association
 - Member
- Dallas Association of Young Lawyers
 - Member

Publications

- "Up-and-coming or Uninhabitable? RHONY Stars Erin and Abe Lichy's Tribeca Lease Dispute Analyzed Under New York and Texas Law," *The Texas Lawbook*, co-author; May 21, 2024.
- "Grappling With the Confusing Holding of Rohrmoos for Landlord-Tenant Law," *Texas Lawyer*, co-author, October 10, 2023.
- "Cannabis Regulation and Cannabis Derived Products," USA Chapter of the Legalink guidebook, co-author, 2021.
- "PPP Round 2: Changes to the Program, Expanded Coverage, and Who Is Covered," Bell Nunnally Client Alert, author; January 25, 2021.
- "Biometrics in the COVID Era Workplace: Is Your Business Compliant?" *D Magazine*, co-author; November 19, 2020.
- "Completing Service of Process and Establishing Proof of Delivery in Light of COVID-19 Social Distancing Orders," Bell Nunnally Client Alert, co-author; April 3, 2020.
- "Impacts of COVID-19 on Commercial Leasing," Bell Nunnally Client Alert, co-author; April 3, 2020.

- "COVID-19 Issues and Answers for NACM Members," Bell Nunnally Client Alert, co-author; March 20, 2020.
- "Preparing for a Slowdown in Accounts Receivable Collection Due to COVID-19," Bell Nunnally Client Alert; March 18, 2020.
- "Social Security Benefits for Surviving Same-Sex Spouses Five Years After *Obergefell*," Dallas Association of Young Lawyers; June 2020.
- "Preparing for a Slowdown in Accounts Receivable Collection Due to COVID-19," National Association of Credit Management eNews Newsletter, co-author; April 2, 2020.
- *Federal Criminal Procedure: Guilty Plea Satisfaction Guaranteed*, 68 SMU L. REV. 283 (2015).

Presentations

- "Ministerial Exception to Employment Laws and Other Topics," Muslim Nonprofit Leadership Conference, San Francisco; April 21, 2018.
- "Religious Land Use Issues," Muslim Nonprofit Leadership Conference, Dallas; September 29, 2017.

Credentials

Education

- JD, Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law, *cum laude*
- BBA, Baylor University Hankamer School of Business, with distinction

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
- United States District Court for the District of Colorado
- United States Bankruptcy Courts of the Northern, Southern, Eastern and Western Districts of Texas
- United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Colorado