

People



## Scott D. Marrs

Office Managing Partner

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vCard

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” [Clients appreciate] his responsiveness, his ability to pivot and deal with complicated issues on a short timeframe...[Scott is] very smart, and hardworking.

- Dona Cornell, University Of Houston System, For Thomson Reuters Stand-out Lawyers

Serving as Office Managing Partner of Akerman’s Houston office, Scott Marrs is a formidable trial lawyer litigating high profile matters in state and federal courts as well as arbitrations in the United States, South America, the Middle East, and Europe. Scott focuses on legal issues in virtually all aspects of the energy sector, including oil and gas exploration, production, transportation, storage, power, chemical, petrochemical, energy marketing, and well service. He also litigates intellectual property and complex commercial disputes, and has extensive product liability experience working with major automakers in the United States and globally.

Clients appreciate Scott’s strong knowledge of international arbitration and his ability to craft effective legal strategies in venues around the world. Scott serves as an arbitrator with the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre, International Centre for Dispute Resolution, American Arbitration Association, British Columbia International Commercial Arbitration Centre, International Institute for Conflict Prevention and Resolution, and London Court of International Arbitration. He is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb).

### Areas of Experience

Energy and Infrastructure  
Litigation  
Antitrust and Trade Regulation  
Commercial Disputes  
Class Action Defense  
Eminent Domain and Property Rights  
Employment Litigation  
Environmental Litigation  
International Litigation and Arbitration  
Oil & Gas: Downstream and Petrochemical  
Oil & Gas: Environmental  
Oil & Gas: Midstream  
Oil & Gas: Upstream  
White Collar Crime and Government Investigations  
Professional Liability  
Intellectual Property Litigation  
Copyrights  
Product Liability and Mass Torts  
Trademarks  
Higher Education and Collegiate Athletics  
PFAS Litigation and Regulatory Counseling  
Construction  
Construction Litigation and Dispute Resolution  
Japan  
Private Equity Litigation

### Education

J.D., South Texas College of Law, 1989, *cum laude*;  
*Phi Delta Phi*, Board of Advocates, Order of the  
Lytæ; *South Texas Law Review*; Intern: U.S. Court of  
Appeals for the Fifth Circuit  
B.B.A., University of Texas, 1983

### Admissions

#### Bars

Texas

#### Courts

Scott serves on the board of directors of the General Counsel Forum and the advisory board for the Institute for Energy Law. Prior to private practice, he held positions in the legal, natural gas, and land departments of a major energy company.

## Notable Work

**Energy Sector:** Represented an energy investment group in an international arbitration involving a contractual dispute over the sale of South American oil fields. Strategy during extensive proceedings led to a \$100 million award for the client.

**Commercial Business Litigation/Trade Secrets:** Represented global manufacturing company in federal contempt trial defending against allegations made by competing company of trade secret misappropriation and violations of court order – obtained finding of no liability and award of fees against plaintiff.

**Professional Liability/Tax Fraud:** Represented an executive of a global professional services company sued for tax fraud and breach of fiduciary duties in a high-profile matter. Favorable settlement resulted in dismissal order indicating no wrongful conduct, resulting in client tax licensure and the ability to make a living.

**Automotive/Product Liability:** Represented an exotic car manufacturer in obtaining a defense verdict of no liability and no defect in jury trial involving product liability, breach of warranty, consumer statute, and fraud claims.

**Energy Sector:** Represented an international oil field services company in disputes involving Middle Eastern contracts.

**Energy Sector:** Represented a natural gas pipeline company regarding \$200 million acquisition dispute with an energy company.

**Energy Sector:** Represented investors in disputes with an exploration company involving foreign oil and gas fields.

**Arbitration:** Represented an international brokerage house in arbitration of alleged losses by a group of high-net-worth businessmen.

**Energy Sector:** Represented energy client in disputes involving Russian oil interests.

**Energy Sector:** Represented an oil and gas company in disputes involving allegedly defective land rigs.

**Energy Sector:** Represented an exploration & production company in various royalty lawsuits.

**Commercial Contracts:** Represented a French supplier of industrial gases in federal jury trial involving commercial contract disputes.

**Dutch Equipment Manufacturer:** Represented a company in resolving numerous international and commercial issues.

**Energy Sector:** Represented an independent oil and gas producers in a multi-million dollar arbitration against drilling companies in commercial transaction disputes.

**Commercial Contracts:** Represented an international chemical company in \$30 million commercial contract dispute.

U.S. District Court, Northern District of Texas  
U.S. District Court, Southern District of Texas  
U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Texas  
U.S. District Court, Western District of Texas  
U.S. Court of Appeals, Federal Circuit  
U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit  
U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit  
U.S. Supreme Court

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## Related Content

Akerman Partners Named 2025 *Lawdragon* 500  
Leading Energy Lawyers  
March 10, 2025

112 Akerman Lawyers Across the U.S. Named to  
2023 *Super Lawyers* and Rising Stars Lists  
September 28, 2023

Record Number of Akerman Lawyers Named to *The Best Lawyers in America* 2024 Guide  
August 22, 2023

**Employment Discrimination:** Arbitrated an employee discrimination case among an international brokerage house and manager of the U.S. division.

**Product Liability:** Represented an Italian manufacturer in various product liability matters in the United States.

**Retail:** Represented an international pharmacy chain in state jury trial of a hotly-contested defamation and tortious interference case in Houston, Texas.

**Energy Sector:** Represented an international energy services company in state jury trial against competitors for the misappropriation of trade secrets and contempt of prior court order.

**Construction Litigation:** Represented a client in state jury trial for a major construction case alleging improper liens and bonds.

**Breach of Contract:** Represented an international paint manufacturer in a breach of commercial contract state jury trial.

**Trade Secrets:** Represented a client in a state jury trial of a seminal Texas trade secret case involving the client's former employees. Obtained clarification of Texas law from the appellate court.

**Eminent Domain:** Represented various condemnors and condemnees in state jury trials and commissioners' hearings involving eminent domain/condemnation.

**Educational Institution:** Represented a prominent Houston school in state jury trial of a zoning and nuisance case.

**Employment Litigation:** Represented an international chemical company in state jury trial of a wrongful termination case involving environmental dumping allegations.

**Fraud and Breach of Fiduciary Duty:** Represented a client in a state jury trial of a fraud and breach of fiduciary duty case in Houston, Texas involving claims between business partners in a technical school. Conducted oral arguments to the state court of appeals.

**Arbitration:** Arbitrated multimillion dollar intellectual property disputes between an international medical device company and an inventor/surgeon.

**Intellectual Property:** Retained as intellectual property expert in a copyright and trademark arbitration involving two competing international chair manufacturers.

**Patent Litigation:** Represented the plaintiff in obtaining the first jury verdict in American jurisprudence of infringement of a foreign patent following a lengthy trial in the Eastern District of Texas (Beaumont).

**Copyright and Trade Secrets:** Represented NFL coaches in a copyright and trade secret case against coaches who posted confidential NFL playbooks on the Internet.

**Trademark and Trade Dress:** Represented a client in federal jury trial against industrial valve counterfeiters involving the illegal sourcing of valves from Iraq.

**Patent Infringement:** Represented a German manufacturer in federal jury trial in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Gave oral arguments on appeal to the Federal Circuit in Washington D.C.

## Related Professional Experience

- Standard Oil/British Petroleum, Houston, Texas, Legal, Natural Gas, and Land departments
- Union Texas Petroleum, Houston, Texas and Denver, Colorado, Land Department
- Coventry Development, Inc., Houston, Texas, commercial real estate developer

## Published Work and Lectures

- American Bar Association, *Practice Points*, Co-Author, “FAA’s Policy Doesn’t Authorize Special Rules,” June 7, 2022
- Association of Corporate Counsel, Speaker, “Energy Arbitration,” 2018
- *Law360*, Rainmaker Q&A: Akerman’s Scott Marrs, November 2016
- *Law360*, Co-Author, “Preparing Corporate Witnesses: A Primer,” August 2016
- *Texas Lawyer*, Co-author, “The Foreign Corrupt Practices Act: A Primer for Energy Executives,” August 2015
- *Practical Law*, Co-author, “Enforcing Arbitration Awards in Texas,” June 2015
- *Texas Lawyer*, Co-author, “Punch List: What To Do When Threatened or Sued,” June 2015
- *Texas Lawyer*, Co-Author, “How Oil Oversupply Shapes the Litigation Market,” May 2015
- *Law360*, Co-Author, “How GCs and Boards Can Brace for the Cybersecurity Storm,” March 2015
- *Texas Lawyer*, Co-Author, “Cybersecurity in the Energy Age,” February 2015
- *Texas Lawyer*, Co-Author, “Why is Mexico Talking about Importing Oil from Others?,” December 2014
- *Texas Lawyer*, Co-Author, “Arbitration of Energy Disputes,” October 2014
- *Practical Law Journal*, Co-Author, “AAA, JAMS and CPR Comparison Chart, A Practical Comparison of Major Arbitration Forums in the United States,” February/March 2014
- *Texas Bar Journal*, Co-Author, “Arbitration Confidentiality, What You Thought You Knew Can Hurt You - A Comparison of Confidentiality (Or Lack Thereof) in Major Domestic and International Arbitration Forums,” February 2014
- AAA Training Course, Panelist, “What We Have Here is a Failure to Communicate,” 2014
- Energy Law Institute, Speaker, “50 Shades of Energy Arbitration,” 2014
- *Corporate Counsel*, Co-Author, “The Art of (Litigation PR) War,” April 2013
- American Law Media (ALM) Course, High Stakes Litigation, Speaker, “Harness the Power of Arbitration to Obtain a Successful Award,” 2013
- The Company in Crisis Supercourse, Speaker, “The Lost Art of Arbitration,” 2013

- International Association of Defense Counsel (IADC) Annual Meeting, Speaker, “Comparing and Contrasting the Major European and American Arbitral Forums,” 2013
- Texas General Counsel Forum, Speaker, “Legal Transformation - 2020,” 2008
- General Counsel West Coast Conference, Speaker, “Sins of IP Strategy - Why Winning IP Cases Are Lost,” 2007
- Association of Corporate Counsel, ACC Docket, “Trade Secrets & Corporate Espionage, Protecting Your Company’s Crown Jewels,” April 2004
- Network of Trial Law Firms, Speaker, “Presenting the Corporate Plaintiff’s Trade Secret Case,” 2001
- *Texas Bar Journal*, “Geophysical Trespass in Texas - An Overview,” February 1995
- CNN, Guest Speaker, “Burden of Proof,” with Greta Van Susteren
- CourtTV, Guest Speaker, “Pros and Cons”

## Affiliations

- *Law360*, Texas Editorial Board, 2023
- General Counsel Forum (Board of Directors)
- Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CI Arb), Fellow
- National Association of Corporate Directors (NACD)
- Trial Network
- The Association of International Petroleum Negotiators (AIPN)
- International Association of Defense Counsel (IADC)  
Business Litigation Committee  
- Vice Chair (2013-present)  
- Intellectual Property Subcommittee - Co-Vice Chair (2011-2015)  
Arbitration Committee  
- Chair (2009-2011)  
- Vice Chair (2007-2009); International (2016-present)
- Institute for Energy Law  
- Advisory Board and Arbitrator Panel (2014-present)
- State Bar of Texas  
- Intellectual Property Law Section
- American Bar Association  
- TIPS (Tort and Insurance Practice Section)
- Texas Board of Law Examiners  
- Admission Subcommittee (1989-1991)
- Federal Circuit Bar Association

## Honors and Distinctions

- American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA)
- *Best Lawyers*, 2020-2025, Listed in Texas for Commercial Litigation and Litigation – Intellectual Property
- *Lawdragon*, 2025, Listed as a “Lawdragon 500 Leading Energy Lawyer”
- *Super Lawyers* Magazine, 2004, 2006-2024, Listed in Texas for Energy & Natural Resources
- *Thomson-Reuters*, Named a “Stand-Out Lawyer,” 2022
- Named one of “Houston’s Top Lawyers,” H Magazine, 2007-2009, 2011-2016
- ALM/LexisNexis *Martindale Hubbell*, Named one of Texas’ “Top Rated Lawyers,” 2012, 2014-2016

- Named 2013 Top Rated Lawyer in Alternative Dispute Resolution, American Lawyer Media, *Martindale Hubbell*
- Named one of “Houston Top Lawyers For The People,” H Texas Magazine, 2009
- Texas Lawyer, Top 40 Texas Lawyers Under 40, 2001
- Fellow, Texas Bar Foundation, Houston Bar Foundation, and American Bar Foundation
- Houston Lawyer Award, Outstanding Legal Article of the Year, 1993
- Hirsch, Glover, Robinson & Sheiness Award, Excellence in Insurance Law, 1989
- Cecil Cook Award, Best Article on Real Property Law, 1988