

Allan H. Neighbors IV

Shareholder

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Practice Areas

Unfair Competition and Trade Secrets
Litigation and Trials

Overview

Allan Neighbors is a competition and trade secrets lawyer. After spending the first twenty years of his career in courtrooms throughout Texas and the United States, Allan spends much of his time advising, counseling, and training employers on strategies and practices to protect confidential information and trade secrets, guard against unfair competition, and manage litigation risks. As an active member of Littler's Unfair Competition and Trade Secrets Practice Group, Allan is a recognized resource and seasoned counselor in emerging state and federal laws covering restrictive covenants and trade secrets.

Allan is also a certified mediator for the State of Texas and he enjoys bringing that experience to the table to assist parties in resolving disputes involving restrictive covenants, trade secrets, and other business matters.

Allan's recent litigation successes include:

- Representation of Fortune 50 firm client in restrictive covenant and trade secret misappropriation arbitration against group of departing employees, resulting in settlement securing permanent injunctive relief and recovery of monetary damages;
- Secured a winning jury verdict for over \$10 million in a complex trade secret case in federal court in Texas;
- Successful FINRA arbitration defense in a matter where the claimant sought several million dollars in damages, as well as an ancillary state court proceeding in Texas where injunctive relief was sought against our clients. The FINRA arbitration resulted in no damages being awarded and the ancillary proceeding in state court was dismissed;
- Secured preliminary and permanent injunctions enforcing noncompetition agreements against a group of departing employees who sought to establish a competing logistics business on behalf of a new employer and led teams in complex multijurisdictional disputes that resulted in the protection of millions of dollars of intellectual property in three

consecutive cases involving quantitative analysts in the high frequency trading industry; and

- Numerous successful representations of firm clients, both prosecution and defense, in injunctive relief matters across the United States across multiple industries.

Prior to joining Littler more than 20 years ago, Allan served as judicial law clerk to the pioneering Hon. Mary Lou Robinson, U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Texas.

Professional and Community Affiliations

- Member, Labor and Employment Section, State Bar of Texas
- Member, Labor and Employment Section, American Bar Association
- Member, Labor and Employment Section, Houston Bar Association

Recognition

- Named, The Best Lawyers in America®, 2019-2025
- Named, Super Lawyer, Texas, *Super Lawyers*, 2018-2020
- Named, Rising Star, *Super Lawyers*, 2010-2014
- Named, Rising Star-Employment and Labor, *Texas Monthly Magazine*, 2010-2014

Education

J.D., South Texas College of Law Houston, 2001

B.A., Texas Tech University, 1997, *With Honors*

Bar Admissions

Texas

Courts

U.S. Court of Appeals, 5th Circuit

U.S. District Court, Southern District of Texas

U.S. District Court, Northern District of Texas

U.S. District Court, Western District of Texas

U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Texas

Publications & Press

Best Lawyers in America® 2022 Edition Honors More Than 240 Littler Lawyers

Press Release

August 19, 2021

Best Lawyers in America© 2021 Edition Honors More Than 250 Littler Lawyers

Press Release

August 20, 2020

Best Lawyers in America© 2020 Edition Honors More Than 200 Littler Lawyers; 14 Named Lawyer of the Year

Press Release

August 15, 2019

Best Lawyers in America© 2019 Edition Honors More Than 200 Littler Lawyers

Press Release

August 15, 2018

Workforce Q&A

Texas Business Report

May 1, 2016

Littler Attorneys Secure Victory in Major Trade Secrets Case

Press Release

May 21, 2015

Texas May Become 48th State to Adopt the Uniform Trade Secrets Act

Littler ASAP

March 13, 2013

Texas Supreme Court Rules Stock Options Sufficient Consideration to Support Post-Employment Restrictive Covenant

Littler ASAP

June 29, 2011

The Door Continues to Close on Light: Texas Supreme Court Holds Stock Options Award to Valuable Employee Provides Necessary "Nexus" to Protection of Company's Goodwill

Littler ASAP

June 28, 2011

Events & Speaking Engagements

2024 Houston Regional Employer Conference

Houston, TX

September 26, 2024

2023 Houston Regional Employer Conference

Houston, TX

October 18, 2023

2022 Houston Regional Employer Conference

Houston, TX

October 6, 2022

Non-Competes and Trade Secret Protection: Strategies and Recent Developments

2017 Littler Houston Employer Conference

August 10, 2017

2016 Houston Employer Conference

Houston, TX

August 11, 2016

Shh! It's a Trade Secret!

Corporate Counsel Institute, University of Texas School of Law CLE

April-May, 2016

2015 Houston Employer Conference

Houston, TX

August 13, 2015

Noncompetes & Trade Secret Protection: An In-House Counsel's Guide to a Big Year of Change

Houston, TX

April 8, 2015

New Year, New Hires: Tips and Strategies for Avoiding Litigation Arising from the Hiring Process

Houston, TX

January 29, 2015

Prosecuting Parallel Criminal and Civil Trade Secret Theft Cases: Issues a Civil Attorney Should Consider

27th Annual Institute on Intellectual Property Law - Houston Intellectual Property Law Association and University of Houston Law Center

October 6, 2011

The 2011 Houston Employer Conference

Houston, TX

August 11, 2011

Unfair Competition in the 21st Century: Non-disclosure, Non-solicitation and Non-competition Issues Today

Houston, TX

October 28, 2008

Fair and Unfair Competition by Former Employees

The Executive Council

September 2008

Power Tools for Non-Profits

United Way and Houston Young Lawyers Association

March 2005

Debunking Wage & Hour Myths and Overview of New FLSA Regulations

Association of Builders and Contractors

November 2004