

Meaghan D. Nowell

Senior Associate

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Meaghan Nowell is a senior associate in the Litigation & Trial Practice Group. She focuses her practice on oil and gas litigation and complex disputes in a variety of industries. Meaghan also represents clients in internal investigations and all stages of state and federal litigation and appeals.

Before joining Alston & Bird, Meaghan gained experience at an international law firm where she focused on complex commercial litigation including contract disputes, employment disputes, appeals, and investigations. She also provided guidance regarding potential litigation risks arising from transactions in the oil and gas sector.

Meaghan clerked for the Hon. Debra H. Lehrmann of the Supreme Court of Texas and was a judicial intern for the Hon. Jeffrey L. Cureton, Federal Magistrate in the Northern District of Texas. Meaghan earned her J.D., with honors, from the University of Texas School of Law, where she served as articles editor for the *Texas Law Review*, was selected to the Order of the Coif, and was champion of the 2014 Thad T. Hutcheson Moot Court Competition.

Meaghan has devoted significant time to pro bono efforts, winning two consecutive pro bono award honors at her previous firm. During law school, she regularly volunteered with the Children's Rights Clinic, Actual Innocence Clinic, and Supreme Court Clinic.

Representative Experience

Oil and Gas

- Representing oil and gas companies in disputes involving lease termination, purchase contracts, and joint operating agreements throughout Texas and the Permian Basin.
- Representing oil and gas companies in various royalty disputes, including a current representation of a major oil and gas company in a royalty class action.
- Representing clients in multi-layered indemnity disputes involving competing obligations and entities.
- Advising operators and royalty owners in analyzing lease terms and interpreting royalty provisions.
- Advised buyers in oil and gas transactions of potential litigation risks arising posed by potential asset acquisition.
- Obtained a favorable resolution of a purchase agreement dispute involving large sale of Texas mineral interests.
- Obtained summary judgment in favor of seller of mineral interests in a breach-of-warranty title dispute.
- Facilitated a favorable settlement on behalf of the lessors in a royalty underpayment dispute.
- Resolved multiple force majeure disputes through early negotiation before litigation with favorable results for the client.

Contract Disputes and Commercial Litigation

- Represented an ambulance services provider in a dispute over a sole-provider contract.
- Drafted a key briefing to facilitate the settlement of an activist shareholder litigation for a major publicly traded company.
- Represented a corporation in arbitration of a \$100 million earn-out dispute.

Investigations

- Represented large public corporations in investigations of whistleblower accusations and executive issues, including #MeToo allegations.
- Key associate on multiple nationwide internal investigations of various corporations related to money laundering, contract fraud, employee timekeeping, and breaches of securities laws and regulations.

Appellate

- Representing a preeminent legal scholar in submitting an amicus brief to the United States Supreme Court addressing civil rights implications of child protective services investigations.
- Represented a nationwide group of psychiatry experts in submitting a Sixth Circuit amicus brief addressing the effects of mental illness on the exhaustion of administrative remedies.
- Partnered with the ACLU to represent state prison corrections experts in the Ninth Circuit to better define cruel and unusual punishment under the Eighth Amendment.
- Obtained lifelong benefits for a disabled veteran in administrative appeal.
- Drafted a Fifth Circuit appellate brief on behalf of an asylum seeker.

Publications & Presentations

Publications

- “The Uniform Electronic Transaction Act: Risk of Binding Oil and Gas Industry Contracts,” *The Journal of the Energy Law Practitioner*, Vol. 1, No. 1, 2022.
- “Proactively Managing Cybersecurity Risks in Vendor Contracts,” *Texas Lawyer*, June 13, 2018.

Presentations

- “Evolving Royalty Interpretations,” 2022 PALTA/PBADOA Seminar, Midland, TX, April 13, 2022.

Professional & Community Engagement

- Tarrant County Bar Association
- Institute for Energy Law Young Energy Professionals
- Women’s Energy Network

Court Admissions

- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
- Central District of Illinois
- Northern District of Illinois
- Northern District of Texas
- Southern District of Texas

Education

- University of Texas (J.D., 2016)
- Baylor University (B.A., 2012)

Admitted to Practice

- Texas

Related Services

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