



Leonard Davis

Of Counsel

Dallas

214-760-6105

ldavis@fr.com

Overview

The Honorable Leonard Davis, former chief judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas, provides strategic counseling to clients in intellectual property matters and case evaluations and settlement strategies for both plaintiffs and defendants. He also conducts mock trials and *Markman* hearings and provides alternative dispute resolution services as an arbitrator and mediator.

Prior to his retirement from the bench, Judge Davis saw the Eastern District's patent docket grow to one of the largest in the country. He personally handled over 1,700 IP cases and managed one of the nation's busiest patent dockets. He also conducted as many as 11 patent jury trials in a 12-month period and more than 250 individual *Markman* hearings.

Several of Judge Davis' cases have become landmark decisions from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit and the U.S. Supreme Court. His rulings on the bench enjoyed a high affirmance rate. He previously served by invitation on both the Federal Circuit and U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. He also has served on the Fifth Circuit Judicial Council, the Federal Circuit Advisory Committee on case management, and as co-chair of the Federal Judges Committee of the Federal Circuit Bar Association. He also served on the Federal Circuit's advisory council. Judge Davis was honored at the New York Intellectual Property Law Association's annual dinner honoring the federal judiciary by receiving its 2016 "Outstanding Public Service Award" for his service and significant contributions in intellectual property law.

Before his appointment to the federal bench, Judge Davis served as chief justice of Texas' 12th Court of Appeals. Prior to his service as a judge, he was an active trial lawyer for 23 years. His experience as a practicing attorney included a variety of complex cases, including commercial, oil and gas, will and estate contests, breach of fiduciary duty, medical malpractice, product liability and negligence. He previously served as general counsel to the Republican Party of Texas (1983-1988), in addition to gubernatorial appointments to the State Judicial Districts Board (1988-1992) and State Ethics Advisory Committee (1983-1988).

Recognitions & awards

Best Lawyers in America

Best Lawyers 2018-2021

Super Lawyers

Super Lawyers 2018-2019

Outstanding Public Service Award

New York Property Law Association 2016

Honoree

Houston Intellectual Property Inn of Court 2015

Jurist of the Year

American Board of Trial Advocates, Texas Chapter 2013

Baylor Lawyer of the Year

Baylor University School of Law 2012

Flame of Excellence Award

All Saints Episcopal School 1998

Professional associations

Federal Circuit Advisory Council

Texas Bar Foundation

Legal Publications Committee of the State Bar of Texas

Board of Trustees of All Saints Episcopal School

News

News | January 30, 2025

Fish & Richardson Defeats Multi-Billion Dollar Demand at EDTX Jury Trial

Media Coverage | January 24, 2025

Fish & Richardson Trial Team Named *Law360*'s 'Legal Lions of the Week' for \$1.95 Billion Patent Case

Law360

News | September 11, 2023

Fish & Richardson Secures Appellate Win for Bumble Involving Rare Legal Doctrine

News | March 20, 2019

Fish & Richardson Celebrates Opening of Shenzhen Office

News | August 15, 2018

47 Fish Attorneys Named to The Best Lawyers in America 2019 List

News | April 4, 2016

Former Federal Judge Leonard Davis of Fish & Richardson Honored by New York Intellectual Property Law Association

News | March 24, 2016

Fish & Richardson Named Top Patent Litigation Defense Firm

Events

May 27, 2019

Korean Intellectual Property Law Association (KIPLA) Conference

October 17, 2018

2018 Eastern District of Texas (EDTX) Bench Bar Conference

October 4, 2017

21st Annual Eastern District of Texas (EDTX) Bench & Bar Conference

September 13, 2017

Federal Circuit Bar Association Bench & Bar Patent Litigation 2017

November 3, 2016

Life Sciences Summit 2016

October 19, 2016
Eastern District of Texas Bench and Bar Conference

October 7, 2016
Stanford-Samsung Patent Conference 2016: The Changing Patent Landscape

September 6, 2016
2016 International IP Court Conference

Additional insights

Speaking engagements

- "Impact of *TC Heartland*," *Federal Circuit Bar Association Bench & Bar Patent Litigation Program* (September 2017)
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Services

Litigation
Patent Litigation

Admissions

Texas
Supreme Court of the United States
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas
U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas
U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas
U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas

Education

J.D. *cum laude*, first in class, Baylor University School of Law (1976) Editor-in-Chief, *Baylor Law Review*, Member, Interscholastic Moot Court and Mock Trial Teams
M.S., Management Science, Texas Christian University (1974)
B.A., Mathematics, University of Texas at Arlington (1970)
