



Paula Hinton

Partner

Houston

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Paula is a go-to trial lawyer, as recognized by *Chambers USA and Best Lawyers®*, and recognized as one of the “Top 250 Women in Litigation” by *Benchmark Litigation*. Her clients have told *The Best Lawyers in America®* that “Paula is one of the best trial lawyers I have worked with. She easily grasps complex issues and is able to explain them to the fact finder in simple effective terms.”

Paula serves on the Firm’s Executive Committee and as past chair and member of the Women’s Leadership Initiative and focuses on representing businesses in complex civil litigation. She has represented clients in courtrooms across the country, before administrative agencies and in international and domestic arbitration forums to resolve a wide variety of disputes, including those concerning contracts and general business issues, business torts, consumer disputes, environmental issues, trademark issues, trade secret issues, product liability, telecommunications litigation, energy-related litigation, and numerous class actions.

Notable clients have spoken highly of Paula’s work ethic, including:

“Paula has represented Concentra for several years. During the time I have known her, she has provided the highest level of professional representation. She has a broad knowledge of the law and a clear handle on the practical aspects of litigation so that she is able to achieve the best result in the most efficient manner. I have been

particularly impressed with Paula's excellent customer service - she is very responsive and is mindful of my time as well as hers. Paula is bright, articulate, and effective in making complex matters understandable - thereby allowing her client to analyze the company's position and make an informed decision about the matter. I highly recommend Paula Hinton." *Mark Solls, Concentra Inc., Addison*

Key Matters

One of Paula's most significant cases was for a waste disposal company in a case the *Texas Lawbook* touted as "one of the greatest defense victories in Texas history." Paula successfully defended against a US\$4.8 billion environmental civil penalties lawsuit filed by Harris County and the State of Texas. After six weeks of trial and convincing the judge to toss two-thirds of the damage claims, Paula's powerful arguments ultimately secured a favorable settlement just minutes before closing arguments were scheduled to begin.

Paula's experience also includes:

- Successfully represented a wind farm company to obtain an injunction from landlord interference with lease operations.
- Successfully represented a purchaser of biomass power in a PPA dispute.
- Represented a major oil company in construction disputes before FERC and Alaska PUC.
- Helped client Kemco resolve a three-year contract suit by finding issues in a case that other lawyers had overlooked. After being stymied in court for years, Kemco hired Paula and, in less than two months, she suggested a solution which led to a successful motion to compel arbitration and, ultimately, a settlement.
- Represented a major oil company in a multi-million-dollar dispute before the Regulatory Commission of Alaska and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relating to the prudence of a large scale construction project.
- Successfully represented a major oil company in a summary judgment relating to the construction of a 50-year-old contract and the obligations of the parties relating to Dismantle, Remove, and Restore (DR&R) responsibilities.
- Successfully defended a national gasoline retailer facing a breach of contract, tort, and RICO action brought by a terminated supplier in CPR arbitration and secured a take-nothing award.
- Successfully opposed several nationwide class certifications in consumer class actions for major oil companies across the country.
- Successfully represented a major defense contractor in a multimillion dollar breach of warranty matter in international arbitration.
- Successfully represented a major oil company in multi-million-dollar breach of contract fraud and RICO matter in arbitration.
- Successfully defended and obtained a take-nothing verdict for a major telecommunications company in a Federal Communications Act (FCA) suit; obtained judgment on all counterclaims.
- Successfully represented a major entertainment company in breach of confidentiality agreement and theft of trade secrets suit against former employees.
- Successfully defended and obtained summary judgment for a major telecommunications company in a fraud and FCA suit; secured judgments against third parties.
- Obtained in arbitration a favorable award on behalf of a major U.S. oil company relating to a claim of a right of first refusal to purchase real property; handled appeal relating to the award to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals where it was affirmed, and certiorari was denied by the United States Supreme Court.
- Successfully defended and obtained a take-nothing verdict in a suit for a franchisor on fraud, promissory estoppel, and claims of wrongful termination.

- Obtained favorable resolution of state court class actions alleging improper pass through of property taxes on cable bills.

Recognitions

Paula has received many bar, industry, and community service honors and awards. In recognition of her extraordinary support and advocacy for the advancement of minorities, women, and LGBTQ+ people in the legal profession over the course of her legal work, Paula was the recipient of the most coveted diversity awards in the country, the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Texas Minority Counsel Program in 2021.

Paula has been highlighted in *Chambers USA 2021–2022*'s "Spotlight Table" for her achievements as a Texas Trial Lawyer. She has been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*® for mass tort litigation since 2008.

In a victory for civil and privacy rights in Texas, Paula provided pro bono representation in a five-year, long-fought battle for a lesbian high school student who was harassed and "outed" at age 16 by her coaches. She secured a US\$77,500 settlement and changes to the district's policies relating to the privacy rights of students. Paula received the Kristi Couvillon Pro Bono Award from the *Texas Civil Rights Project* for her work on this matter.

Paula's additional recognitions include:

- Recognized in *Business Today News* as one of the "Top 10 Trailblazing Commercial Litigation Lawyers in Houston, Texas", 2023
- Recognized in *Lawdragon's* "500 Leading Energy Lawyers" for Energy Litigation, 2024-2025
- Recognized in *Lawdragon's* "Green 500: The 2024 Leaders in Environmental Law"
- Recognized in *Lawdragon's* "500 Leading Energy Lawyers" for Energy Litigation, 2023–2024
- Recognized in *Lawdragon's* "500 Leading Litigators in America" for Commercial Litigation and Mass Tort/Toxic Tort, 2024
- Recognized by *Chambers USA* for Litigation: General Commercial – Texas, 2017–2023
- Recognized in *The Legal 500 US* as a "Key Lawyer" for General Commercial Disputes, 2022–2023
- Recognized in *The Legal 500 US* as a "Key Lawyer" for Energy Litigation: Oil and Gas, 2021–2023
- Recognized in *The Legal 500 Latin America International Firms* for City-Focus Houston (2024)
- Recognized in *Benchmark Litigation US* as a "Texas Litigation Star" for General Commercial Litigation, 2020 and 2023–2024
- Recognized in *Benchmark Litigation US* as a "National Practice Area Star" for General Commercial Litigation, 2020, 2023, and 2024
- Recognized in *Benchmark Litigation US* as a "Litigation Star," 2018 and 2023
- Recognized in *Benchmark Litigation US* as one of the "Top 250 Women in Litigation," 2015–2023
- Recipient of The Texas Minority Counsel Program's Lifetime Achievement Award, 2019
- Recipient of *Corporate Counsel's* "National Women in Law Award," 2018
- Recipient of *Texas Lawyer's* "Professional Excellence Lifetime Achievement Award," 2018
- Recipient of Minority Corporate Counsel Association's (MCCA) George B. Vashon Innovator Award, 2016
- Featured in *Texas Lawyer's* "Winning Women" as one of only 19 female litigators in Texas to receive this award, 2014
- Recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America*® for Mass Tort Litigation/Class Actions, 2008–present
- Recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America*® for Commercial Litigation, 2008–present
- American Law Institute

- Legal Media Group’s (Euromoney’s) *Expert Guide to Leading U.S. Litigation Lawyers*
 - International Association of Defense Counsel
 - Defense Research Institute
 - Senior Fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America
 - American Inns of Court
 - College of the State Bar of Texas
 - Senior Fellow, American Leadership Forum
 - Recognized in *Texas Super Lawyers*, 2003–present
 - Recipient of *Houston Woman Magazine*’s “50 Most Influential Women,” 2008
 - Recipient of the “2004 Women on The Move Award,” Texas Executive Women and the *Houston Chronicle*
 - Recipient of the State Bar of Texas Women and the Law Section’s MA’AT Justice Award, 2001
 - Graduate American Leadership Forum
 - Graduate of Business/Civic Leadership Forum-Center for Houston’s Future
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Activities

- Member of the Trial Law Institute
 - Member of the Diversity Law Institute
 - Member of the Council of the ABA Section of Litigation
 - Board Member for National Association of Women Lawyers (NAWL) (2019–2024)
 - Member of the Firm’s Executive Committee
 - Past chair and member of the Firm’s Women’s Leadership Initiative (WLI), for which Winston & Strawn won the award for “Outstanding Firm in Advancing Gender Diversity and Inclusion” at the 2017 *Chambers USA Women in Law Awards*
 - Member of the Firm’s Diversity and Inclusion Committee
 - Member of the Defense Research Institute
 - Currently serving in ABA Section of Litigation’s Division Director and Liaison to the ABA Commission on Women in Law and Division III Director
 - Past chair and director of the Litigation Section of the State Bar of Texas (2013–2016)
 - Past co-chair and founding member of the Asia Society of Texas’ Women’s Leadership Series and a past member of the Executive Women’s Partnership for the Greater Houston Partnership
 - Member of the Board of Governors of the University of Alabama Law School Foundation and member of the Strategic Planning Committee
 - Past chair and director of Houston Bar Foundation
 - Past director of the State Bar of Texas and member of the Executive Committee
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“Paula Hinton is an excellent advocate for the company. She takes

the business needs into consideration and consults with the in-house counsel throughout the case. ”

Mark Solls, Concentra Inc., Addison

“ Paula Hinton is one of the best attorneys I’ve worked with. She is knowledgeable, incredibly responsive, and attuned to the client’s needs. ”

Cesar Arreaza, Shell Oil Company

Credentials

EDUCATION

Paula received a B.A., *magna cum laude*, in political science, and an MPA from the University of Alabama where she was named the Outstanding Graduate Student. She received her J.D. from the University of Alabama School of Law, where she was a member of Pi Sigma Alpha, Omicron Delta Kappa, Phi Delta Phi, and Farrah Law Society. She served as Chief Justice of the Honor Court at the University of Alabama School of Law. Paula was also a Rotary International Graduate Fellow in international comparative law at the Universidad de Seville, Spain.

ADMISSIONS

- Alabama
- Texas

Related Insights & News

Publications

- [“The Remote Jury Trial is a Bad Idea,”](#) Law360, Co-author, Jun. 9, 2020
- Litigation Update – State Bar of Texas, Course co-director, 2015
- “Inadvertent Disclosure of Privileged Information: Are Clawbacks Allowed?” ABA Litigation Section podcast, Jun. 2014
- “Work-life Management – Sound Advice,” ABA Section of Litigation podcast, Jun. 2014

Speaking Engagements

- [“Step by Step: How a Prominent Litigator Built Her High-Profile Career,”](#) *Litigation Radio*, ABA’s Legal Talk Network, Guest Speaker, March 2024
- “The Ethical Use of Expert Witnesses,” 2022 Litigation Section Annual Conference, Speaker, May 4, 2022
- ABA Litigation Section Diverse Lawyers Trial Academy, Co-chair and instructor, Nov.19–20, 2021
- “Keep Your Eyes on the Reptile: Creative Strategies to Prevent Runaway Verdicts,” Winston & Strawn Product & Mass Tort Summit 2021, Panelist, May 25, 2021

- “The Pandemic Leaves Its Mark on Courtroom Trials,” 2021 Virtual ABA Litigation Section Annual Conference, Panelist, May 6, 2021
- “The Virtual Courtroom: If Technology Wins, Do Clients Lose,” Winston & Strawn, LLP, Panelist, May 13, 2020
- “Insights from Women Rainmakers: How to Retain Top Female Talent,” First Chair’s Equal Pay Summit, Panelist, Oct. 22, 2019
- “Family Feud: A Survey in Ethics,” ABA Annual Meeting, Panelist, Aug. 8, 2019
- 2019 Commencement Address, The University of Alabama School of Law, Speaker, May 5, 2019
- “Plenary: Ten Tips to Develop Your Expert Witness Expertise (In-House Bootcamp),” ABA Section of Litigation – 2018 Corporate Counsel CLE Seminar, Speaker, Feb. 17, 2018
- ROBWEC Breakfast Meeting, River Oaks Business Women Exchange Club (ROBWEC), Speaker, Dec. 1, 2017
- “Superstars in the Courtroom Share Their Secrets of Success,” ABA Leadership Section Women in Litigation Joint Conference, Speaker, Nov. 17, 2017
- “Contempt Of Court: The Turn-Of-The-Century Lynching That Launched A Hundred Years Of Federalism,” The National Association of Women Lawyers’s Thirteenth General Counsel Institute, Presenter, Nov. 10, 2017
- “Achieving Long-Term Careers for Women in Law,” ABA Initiative Summit, Participant, Nov. 7, 2017
- “New Frontiers for Women’s Initiatives,” The National Association of Women Lawyers’s Meeting The Challenge Program, Speaker, Sept. 16, 2016
- “Women as Lead Counsel at Trial: What You Can Do to Take the Lead,” Planning France Amériques, Speaker, Jun. 6, 2016
- “Women as Lead Counsel at Trial: What You Can Do to Take the Lead,” ABA Annual Meeting, Panelist, Aug. 2015
- “Litigation of the Future: What Trial Attorneys Need to Know,” ABA Section of Litigation Spring Leadership Meeting, Presenter, Jun. 2015
- “Learning to Lead: What Really Works for Women in Law,” ABA Litigation Sections Woman Advocate Committee’s National Roundtable, Speaker, Jul. 2014
- “Inadvertent Disclosure of Privileged Material: Avoiding a Finding of Waiver in the Digital Age,” ABA Webinar presentation, Speaker, May 2014
- “Dialing for Dollars – What You Don’t Know About the Telemarketing Consumer Protection Act Can Cost Your Clients a Fortune,” ABA Section of Litigation 2014 Annual Conference, Speaker, Apr. 2014
- eDiscovery Update, SBOT 30th Annual Litigation Update, Moderator, Jan. 2014

RECOGNITIONS

Winston & Strawn Recognized in *Global Arbitration Review’s* GARI100 17th Edition

MARCH 22, 2024

IN THE MEDIA

Paula Hinton Featured on “Litigation Radio” Podcast

MARCH 21, 2024

RECOGNITIONS

Winston Attorneys Featured on the 2024 *Lawdragon* 500 Leading Energy Lawyers List

FEBRUARY 16, 2024

RECOGNITIONS

Winston Attorneys Featured on *Lawdragon's* Green 500: The 2024 Leaders in Environmental Law List

FEBRUARY 2, 2024

RECOGNITIONS

Winston & Strawn Recognized in All Categories of *The Legal 500 Latin America* 2024

OCTOBER 26, 2023

RECOGNITIONS

Winston & Strawn Recognized in 2024 *Benchmark Litigation*

OCTOBER 6, 2023

RECOGNITIONS

Three Winston Teams Featured in Litigator of the Week Column

SEPTEMBER 29, 2023

RECOGNITIONS

Winston & Strawn Partners Recognized in 2024 *Lawdragon* 500 Leading Litigators in America

SEPTEMBER 8, 2023

RECOGNITIONS

Winston Attorneys Recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America*® 2024

AUGUST 17, 2023

RECOGNITIONS

Winston Partners Named to *Benchmark Litigation's* 2023 List of the Top 250 Women in Litigation

AUGUST 3, 2023

RECOGNITIONS

Winston & Strawn Recognized in *The Legal 500 U.S.* 2023

JUNE 7, 2023

RECOGNITIONS

Winston & Strawn Recognized in *Chambers USA* 2023

JUNE 6, 2023

Capabilities

- Litigation/Trials
- Product Liability & Mass Torts
- Commercial Litigation & Disputes
- Class Actions & Group Litigation
- International Arbitration
- Environmental
- Environmental Litigation & Enforcement
- Technology, Media & Telecommunications
- Energy