



LeElle B. Slifer

Partner
Co-Chair, General Litigation Practice

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LeElle is an experienced trial lawyer who serves as co-chair of Winston's General Litigation Practice. Her clients describe her as a litigator who "provides time-critical business and strategic counsel that can make all the difference in high-stakes litigation." With significant experience in a wide range of disputes—including complex commercial, breach of contract, oil and gas, breach of fiduciary duty, antitrust, patent and copyright infringement, non-competes, theft of trade secrets, class actions, and even the seizure of cargo barges and private jets—LeElle can efficiently and strategically tackle any issue. LeElle understands that getting the best result for her clients means more than just the legal outcome, it means keeping the client's business goals in mind every step of the way.

LeElle has litigated in federal and state courts nationwide, trying matters before both judges and juries. She has participated in numerous domestic and foreign arbitrations, including before the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) in London. One of her trials—*DDR Holdings v. Hotels.com*, in which her team won a jury verdict of patent infringement in the Eastern District of Texas—was the first case to survive a Section 101 challenge at the Federal

Circuit after the Supreme Court issued *Alice Corp. v. CLS Bank Int'l* and was the only case to do so for almost two years.

She has handled appeals to several federal and state courts of appeal, including the Supreme Court in *Comcast Corp. v. Behrend*.

LeElle knows that litigation forms just one aspect of her clients' businesses. She thinks tactically, keeping her clients' objectives and concerns top-of-mind as she counsels them through litigation. And her clients can attest to the success of LeElle's results-oriented approach:

"I have had the privilege to work with some of the brightest and most highly regarded lawyers in the country. LeElle is in that class. She is a brilliant strategist, master negotiator, and has the wisdom and discipline to know how and when to use honey or vinegar, both of which she does very effectively. LeElle is dogged in her pursuit of the issues and is as comfortable on Wall Street as she is in a small rural courthouse—a rare skill set indeed. I would not hesitate to recommend LeElle to anyone who needs strong, creative, and efficient counsel for important litigation or other dispute resolution matters." – Andy Fletcher, General Counsel for Stonebriar Commercial Finance.

Key Matters

Some of the experience represented below may have been handled at a previous firm.

LeElle's representative experience includes:

- *Kosmos Energy Sao Tome and Principe v. ERHC Energy (BVI) Limited* (International Chamber of Commerce (London); Harris County District Court, Texas 157th Judicial District) – Represented Kosmos in a dispute over rights to conduct oil and gas exploration in the Exclusive Economic Zone off the coast of São Tomé and Príncipe. Oversaw dual-track litigation in the ICC and Harris County. Secured preliminary injunctions in both jurisdictions, summary judgment on liability in Harris County, and a complete victory at the ICC, including attorneys' fees.
- *Torrey Partners LLC v. [Confidential]* (American Arbitration Association) – Represented a pharmaceutical marketing firm in a dispute with a pharmaceutical manufacturing company over fees owed under a marketing agreement. After taking over for prior counsel within six months of arbitration, finalized a settlement two days before trial that far exceeded the client's desired result.
- *Pizza Hut Inc. v. Accenture LLP* (S.D.N.Y.) – Represented Pizza Hut in a breach of contract action against Accenture for failure to provide a software product. Filed suit immediately after pre-suit mediations ended at an impasse. The very next day, Accenture acceded to settlement demands and the parties executed a final agreement within four months. Obtained a settlement of the entire dispute with nothing more than filing a complaint.
- *DDR Holdings, LLC v. Hotels.com, L.P., et al.* (E.D.T.X.) – Represented inventors and patent holders in a patent infringement suit against seven defendants involving third-party website design features. After a jury trial, won verdicts of infringement against the only two defendants who had not settled. Successfully defended the verdict on appeal to the Federal Circuit on a § 101 challenge—the first case to do so after the Supreme Court issued *Alice Corp. v. CLS Bank Int'l*.
- *Stonebriar Commercial Finance v. Zetta Jet et al.* (Collin County District Court, Texas 380th Judicial District) – Won complete judgements (including award of attorneys' fees) against defendants and then pursued enforcement actions in five different states including managing several related actions in Colorado state court and bankruptcy court. Negotiated the exchange of a private aircraft as part of the settlement agreement.
- *Stonebriar Commercial Finance v. Griffin Barges* (S.D.T.X. and E.D.L.A.) – Seized four multimillion-dollar cargo barges (two in the Houston Ship Channel, two docked in New Orleans) used as collateral to secure a loan. Facilitated the subsequent sale of the barges, the proceeds of which fully covered the entire outstanding debt, and all attorneys' fees.

- *Black Stone Minerals v. Chesapeake, PXP Louisiana, et al.* (DeSoto Parish, Louisiana 42nd Judicial District) – Sued Chesapeake and PXP Louisiana (now Freeport-McMoRan) for underpaying royalties on minerals produced in the Haynesville Shale. Reached a favorable settlement with PXP within months of filing suit and with Chesapeake days before trial.
- *Black Stone Minerals v. Chesapeake, Total E&P, et al.* (part of MDL in Tarrant County District Court, Texas 348th Judicial District) – Sued Chesapeake and Total for underpaying royalties on minerals produced in the Barnett Shale as part of the leadership in multidistrict litigation in Texas involving similar claims made by other royalty owners. Briefed, argued, and defeated multiple case-specific and MDL-wide summary judgment motions which resulted in settlements with all defendants.
- *Dilworth v. Chesapeake* (McMullen County District Court, Texas 343rd Judicial District) – Sued Chesapeake for underpaying royalties on minerals produced in the Eagle Ford Shale. Secured favorable settlement for the Dilworth family.
- *Bell Textron Inc. v. Scott Drennan and Hyundai Motor America* (Tarrant County District Court, Texas 96th Judicial District) – Part of a team that obtained a swift settlement on behalf of Drennan, Hyundai, and all potential defendants in connection with allegations of theft of trade secrets and violations of a non-compete agreement.
- *Griffith v. Waters* (Dallas County District Court, Texas 134th Judicial District) – After parachuting in as trial counsel on the day of trial, obtained verdict for client through post-judgment briefing and oral argument in a real estate dispute valued over US\$1M.

Recognitions

- *The Best Lawyers in America*®—Recognized for Commercial Litigation (2024–2025)
- *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch*® in America—Recognized for Commercial Litigation (2021–2023)
- *Texas Lawyer's* Texas Legal Awards—"On the Rise" (2024)
- *Lawdragon*—"500 Leading Energy Lawyers" (2023–2025)
- *D Magazine*—"Best Lawyers Under 40" (2020)
- *Texas Super Lawyers*—Recognized as a "Rising Star" (2020)

Activities

- Board, Access to Justice Lab at Harvard Law School
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Credentials

EDUCATION

LeElle received her J.D., *cum laude*, from Harvard Law School in 2010, where she was editor-in-chief of the *Harvard Journal of Law & Public Policy*. She received her B.A., *magna cum laude*, in developmental neuropsychology and political science from Duke University in 2007.

ADMISSIONS

- Texas
- New York

CLERKSHIPS

- USCA - Fifth Circuit for the Honorable Jerry E. Smith
- USCA - Fifth Circuit for the Honorable Jerry E. Smith

Related Insights & News

RECOGNITIONS

Winston Attorneys Featured on the 2025 *Lawdragon* 500 Leading Energy Lawyers List
MARCH 6, 2025

SPONSORSHIP

Winston & Strawn Sponsors 2024 Eastern District of Texas Bench Bar Conference
OCTOBER 23, 2024

CLIENT ALERT

Business Courts in Texas – Final Rules Approved
AUGUST 29, 2024

RECOGNITIONS

Winston & Strawn Recognized in the 2024 Texas Legal Awards
AUGUST 19, 2024

RECOGNITIONS

Winston Attorneys Recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America*® 2025
AUGUST 15, 2024

CLIENT ALERT

Business Courts in Texas – Progress and Prognostication
JULY 1, 2024

ARTICLE

The Myth of Work-Life Balance
MARCH 27, 2024

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

LeElle Slifer To Join Tom Melsheimer's Go-Getters Series
FEBRUARY 27, 2024

RECOGNITIONS

Winston Attorneys Featured on the 2024 *Lawdragon* 500 Leading Energy Lawyers List
FEBRUARY 16, 2024

IN THE MEDIA

LeElle Slifer Shares Remembrance of Sandra Day O’Connor in *Texas Lawbook*
DECEMBER 19, 2023

SPONSORSHIP

Winston & Strawn Sponsors 2023 Eastern District of Texas Bench Bar Conference
OCTOBER 25, 2023

RECOGNITIONS

Winston Attorneys Recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America*® 2024
AUGUST 17, 2023

Capabilities

Litigation/Trials	Commercial Litigation & Disputes	Antitrust/Competition
Intellectual Property	Patent Litigation	Copyright-Infringement Litigation
Trade Secrets, Non Competes & Restrictive Covenants		
Trademark Litigation, Prosecution & Brand Protection		Advertising Litigation
Appellate & Critical Motions	Class Actions & Group Litigation	International Arbitration
Product Liability & Mass Torts	Securities, M&A & Corporate Governance Litigation	
Financial Services	Technology, Media & Telecommunications	Oil & Gas