

Jessica L. Dickerson

Shareholder

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Overview

Jessica Dickerson is a trial lawyer whose practice is concentrated in commercial litigation, complex litigation, insurance defense, product liability, and appellate practice. She has represented parties in a variety of cases, including claims for breach of contract, bad faith, products liability, personal injury, and professional negligence. Jessica's insurance litigation experience includes defense of bad faith and breach of contract claims and analysis of coverage issues.

Jessica's achievements have earned her inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America* (commercial litigation) as well as *Oklahoma Super Lawyers'* list of "Oklahoma Rising Stars," which recognizes the state's top up-and-coming attorneys.

Prior to attending law school, Jessica worked as a journalist with the Oklahoma bureau of a news agency.

Representative Experience

- Obtained summary judgment in favor of insurer on claims that insurer breached duty of good faith and fair dealing.
- Obtained dismissal of claims against defendants in personal injury action arising from an incident at a concert, on the grounds that the plaintiff's claims were barred by the statute of limitations. Dismissal affirmed on appeal.
- Obtained dismissal with prejudice of bad faith action arising from claim under livestock mortality policy, after establishing that deceased animal was not the insured animal following an extensive investigation.
- Obtained summary judgment in favor of broker of non-emergency transportation services in action in which the plaintiff claimed the broker was liable for the death of a member, under a theory that the broker was vicariously liable for alleged negligence by the transportation provider in transporting the member.

Admissions

Oklahoma, 2007

U.S. District Courts for the Western, Eastern and Northern Districts of Oklahoma

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit

Education

J.D., with highest honors, University of Tulsa, 2006; Valedictorian; Order of the Curule Chair; Senior Staff, *Energy Law Journal*; Managing Editor, *Dicta*; Phi Delta Phi

B.A. (Journalism), *magna cum laude*, Oklahoma State University, 2002

Professional Organizations and Memberships

Tulsa County Bar Association
(Bench and Bar Committee)

Oklahoma Bar Association

Council Oak/Johnson-Sontag Chapter of the American Inns of Court
(Member, Current Membership Chair, Former Administrator)

Civic Involvement and Leadership

Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (Tulsa's 20 New Leaders, 2008)

- Assisted in obtaining summary judgment on behalf of general contractor for wind farm in lawsuit arising from injury to employee of staffing agency who was working at wind farm.
- Assisted in obtaining summary judgment for beneficiary of life insurance policy in interpleader action by life insurance company seeking a determination as to who was entitled to proceeds from policy, where lender claimed entitlement to proceeds under an alleged assignment by the decedent.
- Assisted in obtaining summary judgment in favor of insurer in action by insured for breach of contract and bad faith in the handling of a property damage claim.
- Second-chaired bench trial on motion to adjudge opposing parties in civil contempt, seeking to obtain compliance with previously entered judgments and injunctions against cattle trespass. The defendants were held in contempt, and the court entered broader injunctions against future trespass.
- Obtained summary judgment in favor of an information technology staffing company in a lawsuit filed by a former employee alleging disability discrimination based on mental health issues, disparate treatment, and intentional infliction of emotional distress.
- Represented Oklahoma metal alloy trader in breach of contract action against two multi-national steel companies that failed to take and pay for contracted quantities of metal alloys following the economic crisis of 2007. This case resulted in a \$3.2 million verdict that allowed the company to remain viable.
- Assisted in representation of microwave manufacturer in lawsuit alleging that a defect in the microwave resulted in a house fire. The case was tried to a jury, which returned a defense verdict. Successfully defended the verdict and judgment on appeal.
- Assisted in the successful representation of a large accounting firm in a professional negligence action. This case resulted in a summary judgment in favor of the accounting firm, which was affirmed on appeal.
- Assisted in representation of trust beneficiary in action by banking institution and trustee for alleged overpayments. This case resulted in a stay of proceedings against the beneficiary on grounds of federal court abstention.
- Assisted in representation of a professional corporation in action regarding entitlement to assets following dissolution. This case resulted in a favorable opinion by the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals.
- Representation of insurance carriers in cases involving claims of bad faith and breach of contract.
- Coverage analysis of insurance policies including commercial general liability, homeowners, property and casualty, employment practices liability, and liquor liability policies.
- Assisted in successful representation of a large forestry company in actions against numerous trespassers claiming prescriptive rights to the company's property.
- Obtained multiple summary judgments in favor of hospitality services provider in third-party claims for defense and indemnity.
- Assisted in representation of lender in a breach of contract action against borrower. This case resulted in a six-figure judgment in favor of the lender.
- Assisted in representation of employers in actions by employees' representatives for wrongful death.
- Obtained injunction against former employee prohibiting solicitation of employer's customers.

Honors and Awards

- Selected by peers for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America* (commercial litigation)
- Listed in *Oklahoma Super Lawyers'* list of "Oklahoma Rising Stars," which recognizes the state's up-and-coming attorneys