

August 2015

Curtis | Castillo PC Newsletter

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Cohen Mediation



Cohen Mediation Joins Curtis | Castillo, PC

CCPC is pleased to announce that Brooke Cohen is joining the firm Of Counsel with the addition of Cohen Mediation. A native of Dallas, Brooke attended Columbia University; after which she moved to Washington, D.C. where she worked for a bipartisan lobbying firm. In 1995, Brooke returned to Dallas and attended SMU School of Law. She received her Juris Doctorate degree from SMU in 1998.

Brooke brings with her approximately 17 years of legal experience, with a focus on general civil litigation. Based on this fact, her legal knowledge is far reaching. Specifically, Brooke has experience in business litigation; contract disputes; commercial and residential real estate conflicts; creditors' rights issues, including bankruptcy, foreclosure and title matters; mass tort litigation; personal injury law; tenant and landlord disputes; consumer credit issues; and oil and gas cases. Brooke also has experience in mergers and acquisitions of businesses in South and Central America which adds to her knowledge of high end business matters and to her Spanish language proficiency.

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Working with people and resolving disputes is instinctive to Brooke. This fact, coupled with her legal knowledge, helps her be an effective mediator. She is able to get to the route of problems and find ways to resolve them, all the while helping keep tensions surrounding litigation in check. As one recent participant in a mediation stated,

“Brooke made a difficult, potentially painful mandatory mediation session almost pleasant. Brooke created an atmosphere of calm professionalism that was layered with genuine courtesy, caring understanding, attention to detail and full confidentiality while having my best interests at heart. My heartfelt thanks go out to Brooke. I would highly recommend her mediation skills...”

For more information regarding Cohen Mediation or to schedule a mediation, please contact Cohen Mediation at (214)384-5075, (214)752-2222 or bcohen@curtislaw.net.

Oil & Gas Bankruptcy Alert

Industry effects of the decreasing price of oil:

With the recent decrease in oil prices, the current landscape of the oil and gas industry in the United States is facing change. Higher oil prices and the availability of low cost financing allowed the industry to flourish in recent years. But with prices currently at a fraction of what they were only months ago, analysts have expressed dire concerns that a wave of defaults could be facing those producers who are over-extended and unable to service their debt.

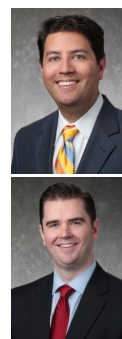
OUR FIRM HAS REPRESENTED MANY OIL AND GAS COMPANIES OVER THE YEARS.

**See Page 2 for previous Oil & Gas Company Representations.*

Recognized Attorneys



Stephanie D. Curtis is honored with the 2015 Distinguished Women's award. The Distinguished Women's award was established by Northwood University 46 years ago to annually recognize the enormous contributions women make to their communities, volunteer agencies, and public and private enterprises. It serves to bring attention to the achievements of women leaders from many walks of life and many diverse fields, and honors women whose values and accomplishments parallel the principles of free enterprise, entrepreneurship, arts and business partnerships, and the global perspective upon which Northwood University was founded. Honorees serve as important role models for the University's mission to "develop the future leaders of a global, free-enterprise society."



Mark A. Castillo and **Joshua L. Shepherd** are named "Texas Rising Stars" in 2015 by Super Lawyers.

(While up to 5 percent of the lawyers in a state are named to Super Lawyers, no more than 2.5 percent are named to Rising Stars.)

Curtis | Castillo PC

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Speaking Engagements & Publications

Mark A. Castillo made three presentations at the 11th Annual Consumer Bankruptcy Practice Conference sponsored by the University of Texas School of Law, in Galveston, Texas on July 23-24, 2015: "How to Marry and Divorce Clients." "Direct and Cross Examination of Witnesses" and "How to Get in Tax Returns, Schedules, Appraisals, and Other Key Documents."

UT LAW CLE

Joshua L. Shepherd co-authored a paper entitled "Mediation: Whither and Whether," State Bar of Texas, May 2015.

Mark A. Castillo spoke at the National Business Institute's (NBI) webcast: "The Means Test from Start to Finish"; broadcasted on April 1, 2015.

NBI NATIONAL BUSINESS INSTITUTE™

Case Accomplishments

Our Attorneys have obtained substantial recoveries for our clients. While each claim is unique and the specific legal & factual circumstances of any one case may dictate its outcome, here are some examples of verdicts, judgments and settlements obtained by our attorneys:

- ◇ CCPC/Federal Title closed on a \$1.3 million commercial property and completed a 1031 Exchange transaction.
- ◇ CCPC obtained dismissal of a sizeable successor liability assessment by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts of sales and use taxes against a client.
- ◇ Court of appeals affirmed trial court's striking of all opposing evidence and granting Firm's motion for final summary judgment in favor of defendant client on over half million dollar guarantee suit .
- ◇ Court of appeals affirmed trial court's granting of Firm's objections on behalf of its individual and corporate clients to over \$1,515,000 proof of claim, reducing the claim by over 80% and commensurately increasing distributions to the Firm's clients who were granted over \$7 million in claims against real estate partnership.

***Each case is different and no results are guaranteed.**



Previous Oil and Gas Company Representations

Texas Wyoming Drilling - Bankruptcy and litigation counsel for Fort-Worth based company with operations of oil and natural gas drilling rigs for hire in Wyoming, investment in oil and natural gas wells and mineral interests as a working interest owner in Texas's Barnett Shale, and ownership of a specialty oil field services business.

Vallecito - Bankruptcy and litigation counsel for a Delaware, LLC with investments in oil and gas leases and assets in New Mexico's Hogback formation.

Trans-Gulf Drilling - Bankruptcy counsel for a Texas limited partnership engaged in oil and gas drilling in East Texas.

J2 Investments - Bankruptcy counsel to a Texas, LLC with oil and gas investments and real estate investments throughout Texas, Oklahoma, Utah, Arizona, and Idaho.

ReoStar Energy - Bankruptcy and litigation counsel for oil and gas company engaged in the exploration, development and acquisition of oil and gas properties, primarily located in the Barnett Shale.

We are a debt relief agency. We help people file for bankruptcy relief under the Bankruptcy Code.

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