

Leigha Simonton

Member



Contact



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Areas of client focus

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Practices

- Commercial Litigation
- White Collar and Government Investigations
- Healthcare
- X Litigation

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Industries

Automotive, Mobility, and Transportation (AMT)

With exceptional strategic foresight, a tireless work ethic, and sought-out, experienced judgment gained from a distinguished, two-decade career at the highest levels of the U.S. Department of Justice, Leigha Simonton focuses her practice on government and internal investigations, corporation compliance, white-collar crime, and complex legal issues at all stages of the trial and appellate process.

Leigha serves as co-leader of Dykema's White Collar and Government Investigations practice. Prior to joining Dykema, Leigha served as the presidentially appointed, Senate-confirmed U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Texas, leading one of the largest districts in the nation. She is respected at the highest levels by fellow attorneys and courts as an expert strategist in investigations, trials, and appeals and thrives in fast-moving high-stakes legal environments. Unsurprisingly, given her background, Leigha is also regarded as one of the most authoritative experts in Northern District of Texas practice and as one of the preeminent advocates in appeals before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

After graduating early with the highest honors from the University of Texas at Austin, she earned her law degree from Yale Law School. During her time at Yale, she served as managing editor of the school's flagship law review, *The Yale Law Journal*, and received the prestigious John Fletcher Caskey Prize for best advocate in the mock trial finals. After graduating from Yale, Leigha clerked for two Texas legal legends—Judge Barbara Lynn in the Northern District of Texas and Judge Patrick Higginbotham on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

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Leigha began her law practice at a major Texas-based law firm before joining the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Texas as an Assistant U.S. Attorney. In that role, she focused on complex trial court and appellate issues and successfully argued over 20 cases before federal circuit courts, predominantly the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. Leigha served as sole counsel in nearly 400 appeals and eventually managed the office's entire Appellate Division.

Leigha directed one of the top Appellate Divisions in the country, shaping precedent in the Fifth Circuit and other appellate courts, leading the charge to victories before the en banc court, and

teeing up issues for the Supreme Court in a way that was most favorable to her client, the United States. She also actively supervised and crafted strategy in thousands of Fifth Circuit appeals and prepared AUSAs for hundreds of Fifth Circuit arguments.

During her time as an AUSA, appellate chief, and U.S. attorney, Leigha worked on virtually every type of matter falling under the DOJ umbrella and with the highest levels of government, including the Offices of the Attorney General, Deputy Attorney General, and Solicitor General; the FBI and other federal agencies; and several of the other 93 U.S. Attorney's Offices.

Leigha has received numerous accolades, including the Director's Award from the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys for her multi-year trial and appellate work on the Dallas City Hall public corruption case. The Dallas Bar Association honored her at its annual "Inspiring Women" Event for her contributions to the Dallas legal community, and SMU Law School has designated her a "Legal Trailblazer." These recognitions not only reflect Leigha's success as a lawyer, they complement the esteem in which Leigha is held by those who have worked with and for her, all of whom are beneficiaries of her demonstrable personal investment in their professional success.

In addition to her client work, Leigha devotes time to supporting domestic violence victims and survivors, serving on the board of directors for the Texas Council on Family Violence and advising other area domestic violence organizations. This passion began while, as an AUSA, she helped run the U.S. Attorney's Office's Domestic Violence Initiative, which targeted individuals with domestic violence histories for federal prosecution and resulted in the *United States v. Rahimi* victory in the Supreme Court.

"I loved the team dynamic I had in the Department of Justice, and now I have that same team dynamic with my clients. I am 100% on their side, and nothing matters more to me than helping them solve their problems, shore up vulnerabilities, strategize on the best path forward, and advocate for them at the trial and appellate levels—and I bring 20 years of government-side experience and well-honed judgment and expertise to bear for them every day."

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Education

- Yale Law School, J.D.



- The University of Texas at Austin, B.A., with *highest honors*

Bar and Court Admissions



Bar Admissions

- Texas

Professional Recognition



- Named a “Best Lawyer in Dallas” by *D Magazine*, 2026
- Named to *Lawdragon’s* List, 500 Leading Litigators in America, 2027
- Named to *Lawdragon’s* List, 500 Leading Global Investigations Lawyers, 2026

Affiliations



- Texas Council on Family Violence, Board Member
- North Texas Crime Commission, Law Enforcement Education Committee Member
- Mac Taylor Inn of Court, Benchler
- Northern District of Texas Bench Bar Conference, Host Committee Member
- Dallas Women Lawyers Association, Member & Mentor
- Bar Association of the Fifth Federal Circuit, Member
- National Association of Former United States Attorneys, Member

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PRESS MENTIONS

8.17.26

“Texas Immigration Court Backlog Tops 321,000 Amid Judge Shake-Up”

Leigha Simonton was quoted in the Dallas Morning News and The Texas Lawbook article, “Texas...

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