



Anthony J. Phillips, *Partner*

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With as much experience persuading juries and judges as he has advising military commanders and C-suite executives, Anthony J. “Tony” Phillips is uniquely equipped to begin each matter with the end game in mind. Tony has successfully represented companies, individuals, and the federal government in high stakes legal matters. Whether guiding companies through major business disputes or internal investigations, preparing a matter for trial or arbitration, or helping clients design and implement a program to avoid trouble before it starts, Tony has produced outstanding outcomes through strong trial and investigative skills and a guiding focus on integrity and hard work.

Tony was a first-year student at Harvard Law School during the 9/11 attacks and decided to redirect his legal skills to national service. While completing his law degree, Tony also earned an Air Force ROTC commission at MIT and went on to a distinguished career as an Air Force JAG Officer. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, Tony deployed to Iraq as part of the Law and Order Task Force. For his work modernizing the Iraqi court system and leading major crimes investigations across Iraq, Tony earned the Defense Meritorious Service Medal – the third-highest honor bestowed on service members by the Department of Defense.

Tony’s experience as a civilian attorney has been similarly impactful. He has a substantial track record representing businesses and individuals in commercial matters ranging from EPC, commercial development, and major contract disputes to Foreign Corrupt Practices Act and other white-collar criminal matters. Tony also draws on his strong compliance background to help companies tackle a variety of issues, from program development and implementation to internal investigations and remediation. Tony’s clients value the discretion, trial savvy, and business-focused risk management insight that he brings to their most important legal challenges.

Tony graduated Phi Beta Kappa and with High Honors from Michigan State University. He earned his J.D. from Harvard Law School, where he was Co-Managing Editor of the BlackLetter Law Journal. Tony is a supporter of the Boy Scouts of America, and a member of the Executive Committee of the Eagle Scout Association of the Sam Houston Area Council.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

Harvard Law School

J.D., 2004

BlackLetter Law Journal, Co-Managing Editor

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Distinguished Graduate (Field Training Unit II, Ellsworth AFB) 2004

Air Force Reserve Office Training Corps (ROTC), Detachment 365

Michigan State University

B.A., 1999

Social Relations & Policy with High Honors & Phi Beta Kappa, 1999

United States Air Force

Assistant Staff Judge Advocate General’s Corp, 2005 – 2008

Covington & Burling, LLP

Associate, 2008 – 2011

U.S. Department of Justice, Criminal Division, Public Integrity Section
Trial Attorney, 2011 – 2014

Vison & Elkins

Senior Associate, 2014 - 2015

MD Anderson Cancer Center

Senior Legal Officer & Director, 2015 – 2017

Smyser Kaplan & Veselka, L.L.P.

Of Counsel, April 2017 – December 2017

Smyser Kaplan & Veselka, L.L.P.

Partner, January 2018 - Present

ADMISSIONS

State Court of Texas
State Courts of New York
District of Columbia
District Courts of Puerto Rico
Circuit Courts of Montgomery County, Maryland
United States Court of Appeals District of Columbia Circuit
United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces
United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas
United States District Court for the Northern District of Alabama
United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia

ORGANIZATIONS

- Sam Houston Area Council, Boy Scouts of America
- Eagle Scout Association, Sam Houston Area Council
- Breakthrough Houston
- Houston Bar Association

PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION

- FBI Commendation, awarded by FBI Director Robert Mueller, 2013
- Defense Meritorious Service Medal (Operation Iraqi Freedom), U.S. Department of Justice, 2008
- Robert L. Lowry Award of Excellence, U.S. Air Force Judge Advocate General's School, 2005

PUBLICATIONS AND SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Co-author, "Knowing The Unknown: Avoiding The Threat of FCPA Successor Liability," Westlaw Journal, White-Collar Crime, September 4, 2015.