



Hector R. Chavez, Partner

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Hector Chavez maintains an active general civil litigation practice representing defendants and plaintiffs in complex lawsuits, arbitrations, and appeals. His areas of focus have included patent litigation, trade secrets, commercial disputes, oil and gas disputes, civil rights, and white collar defense. His background as an engineer enables him to understand and dissect complex issues of technology in order to help tell his client's story and deliver successful results. Mr. Chavez has been chosen as a Rising Star by Thomson Reuters Super Lawyers, 2017-Present, and recognized as a Future Star by Benchmark Litigation, 2015-Present.

Mr. Chavez received his Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering (Signals Processing), cum laude in 2006 from Columbia University, where he received Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honors. He received his J.D. from Harvard Law School in 2011, where he was a Cravath International Fellow and Editor of the Harvard Journal of Law and Technology. He is fluent in Spanish and proficient in French and Portuguese. Mr. Chavez is currently involved with the Scholarship and Executive Committees for the Hon. Nancy F. Atlas IP Inn of Court.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

Columbia University

B.S., Electrical Engineering, *cum laude*, 2006
Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honors

Harvard University

J.D., 2011
Editor, *Harvard Journal of Law and Technology*; Cravath International Fellow

Associate

Smyser Kaplan & Veselka, L.L.P., 2011-2018

Partner

Smyser Kaplan & Veselka, L.L.P., 2019-Present

PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION

Future Star by Benchmark Litigation, 2015-Present
Rising Star by Super Lawyers, 2017-Present

ADMISSIONS

Texas(2011)
United States District Court for the Southern, Eastern, and Western Districts of Texas
United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit
United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office(2019)

ORGANIZATIONS

Nancy F. Atlas IP Inn of Court, Executive Committee Member
American Bar Association, Member of the Intellectual Property Section
Tau Beta Pi, Gulf Coast Chapter, Member
Houston Bar Association
Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), Member of Houston Section
Houston Intellectual Property Law Association

PUBLICATIONS AND SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

"Intellectual Property: A Crash Course on Protecting Your Ideas," presented at Rice University, March 2014

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- Represented both defendant and plaintiff corporations in various patent infringement lawsuits, at the district court level and at the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals
- Defended against and sued for Lanham Act and state law unfair competition cases in state and federal courts
- Represented energy companies in gas processing and midstream disputes before state and federal courts
- Represented mineral interest owners in oil and gas lease and royalty disputes
- Represented foreign individuals and corporations on jurisdictional, choice of law, and forum non conveniens disputes before United States federal courts.
- Represented drilling services companies and executives in trade secret misappropriation cases
- Represented hospital systems in cases involving contractual disputes, intellectual property violations, and civil rights defenses
- Briefed and argued white-collar case before the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in matter involving charges against electronics industry executive
- Litigated patent licensing dispute in Eastern District of Texas to successful settlement result