



Hector Chavez III, Associate

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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 that many other lawyers would not readily understand. In 2015, *Benchmark Litigation* recognized Mr. Chavez as a "Future Star" in Texas litigation.

Mr. Chavez received his Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering (Signals Processing Track), *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*.

After his undergraduate studies, Mr. Chavez taught English and Debate at a local high school and worked in France and Spain as a program director for student exchange groups. He is fluent in Spanish and proficient in French and Portuguese. He remains active in the Houston community by serving on the Houston Urban Debate League.

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-Present

PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION

Future Star by Benchmark Litigation, 2015-2016
Rising Star by Thomson Reuters Super Lawyers



ADMISSIONS

State Courts of Texas
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

ORGANIZATIONS

- Nancy F. Atlas IP Inn of Court, Associate
- 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

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
- 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;
- Defended against and sued for Lanham Act and state law unfair competition cases in state and federal courts
- Represented mineral interest owners in oil and gas lease disputes
- Represented drilling services company and executives in trade secret theft cases
- Represented foreign individuals and corporations on jurisdictional, choice of law, and forum non conveniens disputes before United States federal courts.