



## Michelle Stratton, *Of Counsel*

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Michelle Stratton primarily represents plaintiffs and defendants in complex civil litigation and appellate matters. An experienced appellate attorney who has successfully briefed or argued cases in the Supreme Court of the United States, the United States Courts of Appeals for the Fifth and District of Columbia Circuits, the Supreme Court of Texas, and intermediate Texas appellate courts, Ms. Stratton brings rigorous analysis, powerful legal writing, and persuasive oral argument to her clients' cases. Since joining SKV, Ms. Stratton has used her oral and written advocacy skills to obtain multiple early dismissals of lawsuits on behalf of defendants in both federal and state trial courts and to protect the rights of her clients on appeal.

Ms. Stratton graduated first in her law school class and received numerous awards for her legal writing and excellence in trial and appellate advocacy. Following law school, she clerked for Judge Edith Jones on the Fifth Circuit and for Justice Clarence Thomas on the United States Supreme Court. She also worked for the Office of the Solicitor General of the United States, which oversees the federal government's litigation in the Supreme Court and intermediate appellate courts. In 2011, *Washingtonian Magazine* named Ms. Stratton one of ten "Women to Watch."

### EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

#### Louisiana College

B.A., History, *summa cum laude*, 2006

#### Louisiana State University

J.D. and Graduate Diploma in Civil Law, *summa cum laude*, 2009  
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#### Law Clerk

to the Hon. Edith Jones, United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, 2009-2010

#### Bristow Fellow

Office of the Solicitor General of the United States, 2010-2011

#### Law Clerk

to Associate Justice Clarence Thomas, Supreme Court of the United States, 2011-2012

#### Of Counsel

Smyser Kaplan & Veselka, L.L.P., 2015-Present

#### Associate

Baker Botts, L.L.P., 2012-2015

### PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION

American Inns of Court, Temple Bar Scholar, 2012

American Society of Legal Writers' Scribes Award for the best student-written article in a law review or journal, 2009

Federal Bar Association, Baton Rouge Chapter's Federal Courts Award, 2009

Vinson & Elkins Best Casenote or Comment Award for Excellence in Legal Writing, 2008

## ADMISSIONS

State Courts of Texas  
State Courts of Louisiana  
Supreme Court of the United States  
United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas  
United States District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin  
United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit  
United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit  
United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit  
United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuits

## ORGANIZATIONS

- The Federalist Society, Houston Lawyers Chapter, Board Member
- Houston Bar Association, Appellate Practice Section
- LSU Young Alumni Leadership Council
- Louisiana College Alumni Executive Board
- Commercial Bar Association of England and Wales

## PUBLICATIONS AND SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

"Percolating and Potential Legal Conflicts: Challenges for Lawyers and Judges," Appellate Judges Education Institute, November 2014, (coauthors, Aaron M. Streett & Ernest A. Young)

"Advanced Appellate Brief Writing," Course Instructor, LSU Law Apprenticeship Week, January 6–10, 2014

"United States Supreme Court Update," Houston Bar Association, September 19, 2013

"Silencing Chicken Little: Options for School Districts after Parents Involved," Louisiana Law Review, 2009