

# CINDY BENNETT SMITH

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*Admitted to Practice, November 2001*

## JUDICIAL EXPERIENCE

January 2014- Present                      CITY OF TOMBALL, TEXAS  
Municipal Judge

## LEGAL EXPERIENCE

September 2010- Present                      BENNETT SMITH & ASSOCIATES  
Founding Partner/Attorney

- Substantial experience providing clients with representation and counseling from client development through trial or disposition
- Work closely with clients on day-to-day legal matters, from choice and structure of entity and start up to employment, collections and contract matters to sale, dissolution or litigation.
- Broad range of clients have included home health care business, multi-million dollar investment firm, franchisees of education centers and of restaurants, video game developer, oilfield services companies, television producer and auto dealership.
- Conducted mediation of disputes in many areas including medical claims, personal injury suits, breach of contract cases, employment disputes and debt claims.

May 2010- September 2011                      CONTRACT ATTORNEY

The Law Office of Matthew J. Mussalli- *General Business Practice*

- Handling of motion practice
- Conduct hearings and depositions
- Formation of business entities, including Limited Partnerships, Corporations and Limited Liability Companies

Counts & Bonacci- *Commercial Litigation and Business Transactions*

- Reorganizing more than 36 entities for investment client involving withdrawal and addition of members and officers, winding down of certain entities, forming new entities and drafting and amending bylaws and member agreements

Ramey Chandler Mckinnely & Zito- *Insurance Defense*

- First party representation of insurance companies against Hurricane Ike claims. Such representation included analyzing claims handling and adjustment process, developing case strategy and motion practice

April 2007- HILL FINKEL & KING- Houston, Texas  
May 2010 Associate- Insurance Defense

- Represented clients, directly and as retained by insurance companies, against wide variety of claims, including healthcare, trucking, toxic tort, personal injury, premises liability, negligence, labor and employment and complex commercial litigation claims.
- Managed docket of benzene and butadiene related mass toxic tort cases in multi-district litigation.
- Representation included developing case strategy, conducting settlement negotiations, motion practice, conducting and defending depositions handling site inspections, discovery and case management.

January 2002- JOHNSON DELUCA KENNEDY & KURISKY- Houston, Texas  
April 2007 Associate-Commercial Litigation and Insurance Defense

- Represented clients in a wide array of business disputes and insurance claims, including complex litigation, healthcare claims, class actions, contractual dealings, oil and gas, insurance defense, creditors' rights, fraud, bankruptcy, labor and employment, and general business issues.
- Drafted briefs that were successful on their merits to the 5<sup>th</sup> circuit Court of Appeals (breach of contract case); 14<sup>th</sup> Court of Appeals (wrongful termination claim, cert. denied) and 1<sup>st</sup> court of Appeals (wrongful foreclosure)
- First Chair Trial experience in Harris County District, County and Justice of the Peace Courts

March 2000- STUMPF CRADDOCK MASSEY & PULMAN- Houston, Texas  
January 2002 Lawclerk/Associate-Commercial Litigation

- Managed collection files by filing suit, seeking judgments, and executing on judgments; legal research and writing related to commercial litigation issues.

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

May 1988- June 2003

- Fifteen years of experience in the broadcast radio industry, including on-air work, station programming, conducting research and focus group studies, producing advertisements, drafting promotional copy, marketing materials and hiring, managing and supervising staff of up to 50 for stations such as KLOL-FM, Houston; KTBZ-FM, Houston; KILT-FM, Houston, KTRH-FM, Houston, and WCXR-FM, Washington D.C.

## **EDUCATION**

**Legal** SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE OF LAW, Houston, Texas  
J.D., May 2001, Class Standing: top 25%  
Deans List Honors, Fall 2000, Spring 2001

**Undergraduate** TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY, Lubbock, Texas  
Bachelor of Science in Communications, May 1989