



Michael J. Ritter

Michael J. Ritter is senior counsel at Schmoyer Reinhard LLP. Prior to joining the firm, Mr. Ritter served as a staff attorney at the San Antonio court of appeals for seven years and drafted opinions for and advised the chief justice and six associate justices, and served as an in chambers attorney for Justice Luz-Elena Chapa. Mr. Ritter has also served as an Assistant Attorney General, representing Texas agencies in federal and state suits alleging employment discrimination, tort claims, and section 1983 claims.

Experience

Mr. Ritter's practice includes appeals, litigation support, and labor and employment law. His prior appellate experience includes appeals and mandamus proceedings involving employment law, commercial litigation, personal injury, family law, criminal law, and suits involving governmental entities. As an Assistant Attorney General, Mr. Ritter was involved in all aspects of appellate and trial litigation, including pleadings, motions to dismiss, motions for summary judgment, and jury trials.

Mr. Ritter grew up in Round Rock, Texas, and went to college at Trinity University on a debate scholarship. He later graduated from UT Law, where he served on the Texas Law Review, Review of Litigation, and ABA Moot Court team. By the time he graduated, Mr. Ritter had published notes in 5 different law journals at UT Law.

After graduating, he clerked for Justice Rebecca Simmons at the San Antonio court of appeals, and Judge Michael Keasler on the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. In 2018, Mr. Ritter became the first appellate court staff attorney to be board certified in both civil and criminal appeals, and in 2021, became the first attorney openly from the LGBTQ+ community to be elected as a statewide representative on the State Bar of Texas board of directors.

Professional Recognition

- Recipient of the 2022 Outstanding Law Review Article Award from the Texas Bar Foundation
- Recipient of the 2022 Michael K. Moore Award presented by the State Bar of Texas Legal Services to the Poor in Criminal Matters Committee
- Named in *The Best Lawyers in America: Ones to Watch*® in Labor and Employment Law - Management and Litigation - Labor and Employment in 2023
- Recipient of the National LGBTQ+ Bar Association's Best LGBTQ+ Lawyers Under 40 Award
- Named as one of San Antonio's best appellate law lawyers by *Scene in S.A.* in 2019 and 2023
- Named as one of San Antonio's best labor and employment lawyers by *Scene in S.A.* in 2023
- Named by *San Antonio Magazine* as a Top Lawyer-Appellate Law in 2019 and 2023
- Named as a Top 40 Lawyers "On the Rise" American Bar Association in 2019
- Recipient of the Franklin Jones Award Outstanding CLE Award, Texas Bar College in 2020
- Recipient of the Best Constitutional Law Note Award, Texas Law Review in 2010
- Recipient of the Ridley Ray Outstanding Note Award, Review of Litigation in 2009

Activities and Affiliations

- Past President, Texas Young Lawyers Association
- Past Board Member, State Bar of Texas
- Past Appointed Member, State Bar of Texas Nominations & Elections Committee
- Member, Texas Bar Journal Board of Editors
- Chair, LGBT Law Section, San Antonio Bar Association
- Sustaining Life Fellow, Texas Bar Foundation
- Fellow, San Antonio Bar Foundation
- Past President, Texas Association of Appellate Court Attorneys
- Past Board Member, San Antonio AIDS Foundation & Driving Single Parents Inc.
- Frequent speaker on appellate and diversity issues at law conferences, and author of numerous law review articles on Texas appellate and trial law, including an article entitled Texas's Spoliation "Presumption," which was published in the *St. Mary's Law Journal* and quoted by the Supreme Court of Texas in *Brookshire Bros. v. Aldridge*, 438 S.W.3d 9 (Tex. 2014)

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Board Certified in
Civil Appellate Law and
Criminal Appellate Law by
the Texas Board of Legal
Specialization

Education

The University of Texas School
of Law, J.D. with Honors, 2010

Trinity University, B.A.,
cum laude, 2007

Bar Admissions

State Bar of Texas

Court Admissions

U.S. District Courts for the
Eastern, Northern, Southern,
and Western Districts of Texas

U.S. Court of Appeals for the
5th Circuit

