



FRANCIS & TOTUSEK, L.L.P.
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS

Blair G. Francis
Donald L. Totusek
Thomas G. Seidler
Mark E. Gannon
Blake D. Burley

FIRM RESUMÉ

FIRM OVERVIEW

Francis & Totusek, L.L.P. was formed to serve every client honestly and with integrity and at the same time with the zeal required of us under the ethical rules governing our practice as lawyers. That same attitude is expected today of every employee in the firm.

In the area of commercial litigation, Francis & Totusek, L.L.P. has represented both large and small businesses in disputes presenting many types of legal issues. The firm has also handled appeals of cases in both state and federal courts.

The firm also enjoys a robust wills, probate, and estate practice. This practice is handled by Donald L. Totusek, who is board certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization in Estate Planning and Probate Law. Mr. Totusek also provides operational counsel for a number of bank clients.

OFFICE

The firm has maintained its office in Ross Tower in downtown Dallas, Texas since April 1, 1995. Although we are based in Dallas, we have represented clients located in Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, Austin, San Antonio, El Paso, Tyler, and Brownsville, and in several other states as well. With the electronic media available today, we can maintain a virtual presence throughout Texas and, indeed, throughout the nation.

CLIENTS

Through the years, Francis & Totusek, L.L.P. has been privileged to represent many individuals, small businesses and large corporations. Clients the firm has represented or presently represents include: Methodist Hospitals of Dallas, Tenet Healthcare Corporation, Texas Health Resources, Prime Healthcare Management, Inc., Steward Health Care System, LLC, Seton Healthcare, Parkland Health and Hospital System, East Texas Medical Center, Medical Center Neonatal Associates, P. A., Pediatric Pulmonary Associates of North Texas, P. A., JP Morgan Chase Bank, State Farm Bank, First United Bank and Trust Company, Texas Capital Bank, Beal Bank, Plains Capital Bank, Beach Sheet Metal Company, Inc., and Quiltcraft Industries, Inc.

We recognize and value the confidence any client expresses in selecting a lawyer or firm as counsel and hold it not only a duty but also a privilege to do our best to justify each client's trust.

FIRM PERSONNEL

The firm's personnel presently consists of three partners, Blair G. Francis, Donald L. Totusek and Thomas Seidler; two associates, Mark E. Gannon and Blake Burley; one legal administrator, Ms. Leandra Edwards; and five other legal assistants.

ATTORNEYS

Blair G. Francis, partner, was admitted to the Texas bar in 1979 and is also admitted to practice before the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit and the United States District Courts for the Northern, Southern, Eastern, and Western Districts of Texas. Mr. Francis is a 1975 graduate of Abilene Christian College where he received B.A. and B.B.A. degrees *magna cum laude* and a 1979 graduate of the University of Texas School of Law where he received the J.D. degree. Following graduation from law school, Mr. Francis served as a briefing attorney for the Supreme Court of Texas. Mr. Francis is a member of the Dallas and American Bar Associations and the State Bar of Texas. Mr. Francis currently concentrates his practice in commercial litigation, health care disputes and litigation matters.

Donald L. Totusek, partner, was admitted to the Texas bar in 1976 and is also admitted to practice before the United States District Courts for the Northern District of Texas. Mr. Totusek is a 1973 graduate of Oklahoma State University, where he received a B.S. degree, and a 1976 graduate of the University of Texas School of Law where he received the J.D. degree, *with honors*, and was a member of the Order of the Coif. Mr. Totusek is a member of the State Bar of Texas (Real Estate, Probate and Trust Law section), and the Dallas Bar Association (Probate, Trusts and Estates section). Mr. Totusek is board certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization in Estate Planning and Probate Law. Mr. Totusek currently concentrates his practice in estate planning, probate and banking matters.

Thomas G. Seidler, partner, was admitted to the Texas bar in 2020 and is also admitted to practice before the United States District Courts for the Northern and Western Districts of Texas. Mr. Seidler is a 2020 graduate of The University of Texas School of Law where he received his J.D., *with honors*, and a 2017 graduate of The University of Florida where he received his B.A. in Mathematics. Following graduation from law school, Mr. Seidler worked in the Dallas office of a national complex commercial litigation boutique practicing in state and federal courts. He is a member of the Dallas Association of Young Lawyers and the State Bar of Texas. Mr. Seidler currently concentrates his practice in health care and commercial litigation and arbitration matters.

Mark E. Gannon, associate, was admitted to the Texas bar in 2023. Mr. Gannon is a 2019 graduate of The University of Texas at Austin, from which he received a B.A. in psychology, and a 2023 graduate of Texas A&M University School of Law, from which he received a J.D. with honors and was a member of the Texas A&M Law Review. Mr. Gannon has experience in complex commercial litigation and currently concentrates his practice in healthcare and commercial litigation, primarily on behalf of hospital providers.

Blake D. Burley, associate, was admitted to the Texas bar in 2021 and is also admitted to practice before the United States District Courts for the Northern and Eastern Districts of Texas. Mr. Burley is a 2021 graduate of The University of Texas School of Law where he received his J.D. and served on the Executive Board of the Texas Review of Law and Politics, as well as in the Federalist Society. He graduated in 2017 from the University of Texas at Austin, from which he received his B.A. with high honors in Government and Philosophy in the Liberal Arts Honors program. After graduating law school, Blake served as a judicial clerk in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas under the Honorable Judge Brantley Starr and as an attorney at a nationally recognized complex commercial litigation firm, where he specialized in complex commercial litigation and intellectual property litigation. He is a member of the Dallas Bar Association, the State Bar of Texas, and the Federalist Society. Mr. Burley has experience in a wide range of litigation disputes and currently concentrates his practice on healthcare and commercial litigation matters.

LEGAL ASSISTANTS

Leandra Edwards joined the firm March 31, 1997. Ms. Edwards holds a Bachelor of Science degree in IT from the University of Phoenix. Ms. Edwards is the Office Administrator for the firm. She also provides paralegal litigation support to the firm, and has been involved in health care disputes and litigation matters.

Regina E. Carter, joined the firm February 2, 1999. She earned an associate's degree from Southern Tech in Monroe, Louisiana. Ms. Carter spent approximately five years in the District Attorney's Office in Monroe, Louisiana. Ms. Carter has also worked as a litigation support specialist in the collection division of a large national bank with operations in many states. Ms. Carter was awarded her legal assistant certificate from the University of North Texas in August, 2000. Ms. Carter provides paralegal litigation support to the firm, and has been involved in health care disputes and litigation matters. She is a current member of the National Association of Legal Assistants (NALA).

Teresa Huskey joined the firm in August, 2019. Ms. Huskey has 30+ years of experience in health care, including 14 years with a multi-state hospital management company where she was responsible for state and federal advocacy and lobbying, as well as operational and corporate communications. She earned a master's degree from The George Washington University and an undergraduate degree from the University of North Texas. Ms. Huskey provides paralegal litigation support to the firm, and has been involved in health care disputes and litigation matters.

Bonnie Buttolph joined the firm in February, 2020. Ms. Buttolph holds her Bachelor's degree in English and Criminal Justice from Midwestern State University. She received her ABA paralegal certification from the National Center for Paralegal Training in 1987. Ms. Buttolph provides paralegal litigation support to the firm, and has been involved in health care disputes and litigation matters.

Karen Hornbeck joined the firm in October, 2020. Ms. Hornbeck has 30+ years of experience in IT and is a Certified Software Testing Engineer. Ms. Hornbeck also provides litigation support to the firm, and has been involved in health care disputes and litigation matters.

Michelle Allen joined the firm in February, 2024. Dr. Allen holds her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Texas A&M University. Dr. Allen provides paralegal litigation support to the firm, and has been involved in health care disputes and litigation matters.