



## Robert E Meadows (Bobby)

PARTNER

### CONTACT

#### HOUSTON

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### PROFILE

Bobby Meadows is an accomplished trial lawyer known for winning challenging cases. He represents clients in litigation throughout the United States, including trials in state and federal courts, international and domestic arbitrations, summary jury trials and other forms of alternative dispute resolution.

Mr. Meadows' trial experience includes both commercial and tort litigation. Significant commercial matters include multi-million dollar breach of contract and fraud claims arising out of failed business ventures, shareholder derivative suits, oil and gas operating agreements, leases, joint venture agreements and Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) contracts. In tort litigation, Mr. Meadows regularly appears in court defending large corporations accused of environmental damage by plaintiffs seeking hundreds of millions of dollars for land restoration, personal injuries and remediation of municipal water supplies. His tort clients include oil and gas companies, construction/engineering companies, product manufacturers and others.

#### National Trial Practice

Mr. Meadows is one of only a handful of trial lawyers who is both capable and willing to try the most difficult cases in the most difficult venues. Over the course of his 34-year career and more than 50 jury trials, Mr. Meadows has litigated matters in: **Texas**, state court, federal court and arbitrations; **Louisiana**, state and federal court; **Montana**, state court; **Oklahoma**, state court; **Alabama**, state and federal court; **Alaska**, federal court; **Kentucky**, federal court; **Arizona**, state court; **Illinois**, state court; **Mississippi**, state and federal court; **New Mexico**, federal court; **Missouri**, state court; **New York**, state court, federal court and arbitrations; **California**, state court; and **Mexico**, arbitrations.

#### Recognition

Mr. Meadows' success has been recognized by induction into the American College of Trial Lawyers, the American Board of Trial Advocates, the International Association of Defense Counsel, and the Texas Association of Defense Counsel.

In 2010, for the third consecutive year, Mr. Meadows was chosen as a BTI Client Service All-Star, having been singled out for superior service by corporate counsel or other clients. Mr. Meadows is one of only seven lawyers to have been recognized in three or more consecutive years by Fortune 1000 corporate counsel. *Chambers USA* has consistently identified Mr. Meadows as being among the top lawyers in Texas for General Commercial Litigation and Energy and Natural Resources Litigation. He has received similar recognition in Texas Super Lawyers, *Who's Who Legal/Commercial Litigation*, *Best Lawyers in America*, *Legal 500*, and Houston's Top Lawyers by *H Texas Magazine*.

According to *Chambers USA*:

- Bobby Meadows "has a sterling track record in large, complex cases" and is "fantastic before juries."
- "Robert Meadows is recognized for his defense of oil and gas companies in product liability and toxic tort litigation. Clients 'cannot sing his praises highly enough' in this area."
- "The 'terrific' Robert Meadows...is the team's go-to lawyer for key client Chevron, which he has represented in a number of important disputes, including a major victory for Texaco Exploration and Production (a subsidiary of Chevron) in Oklahoma state court and arbitration"

### PRACTICES

Energy & Natural Resources  
 Energy Arbitration  
 Energy Environmental Health & Safety  
 Crisis Management  
 Crisis Management: Energy  
 Energy Disputes  
 Environmental Litigation  
 Product Liability Litigation  
 Toxic Tort Litigation  
 Climate Change

### EDUCATION

J.D., University of Houston  
 M.P.A., Lyndon B. Johnson School of  
 Public Affairs, University of Texas  
 B.A., University of Texas

### ADMISSIONS

Oklahoma  
 Texas  
 U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh  
 Circuit  
 U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit  
 U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit  
 U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit  
 U.S. District Court for the Eastern District  
 of Texas  
 U.S. District Court for the Northern District  
 of Texas  
 U.S. District Court for the Southern  
 District of Texas  
 U.S. District Court for the Western District  
 of Texas

with LL&E over the sale of oil and gas properties."

- *"Well-seasoned trial lawyer' Robert Meadows impresses clients with an insightful and proactive approach as he 'distills complex, expansive issues down to something comprehensible for a jury.' He combines his toxic tort and product liability expertise with energy industry knowledge to cope with challenging industry-wide cases such as the MTBE groundwater case for Chevron."*

## Community Involvement

Mr. Meadows is active in the community, principally through his service as a member of the Board of Trustees of Texas Children's Hospital.

## Leadership in the Firm

- Managing Partner of King & Spalding's Houston office
- Member of the firm's 10-member Policy Committee
- Member of the firm's Lateral Partner Committee
- Senior member of the Houston Litigation Practice Group

## Memberships

- American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA)
- American College of Trial Lawyers (ACTL)
- American Bar Association (ABA)
- Bar Association of the Fifth Federal Circuit
- DRI (Defense Research Institute)
- Houston Bar Association (HBA)
- Houston Bar Foundation
- International Association of Defense Counsel (IADC)
- Texas Association of Defense Counsel (TADC)
- Texas Bar Foundation
- Texas Supreme Court Advisory Committee

## MATTERS

In the last decade, Mr. Meadows handled numerous high profile cases, many of which were tried. Over the last 10 years, Mr. Meadows spent a combined total of more than one year and three months in the courtroom.

- **2010:** Mr. Meadows led his trial team to a defense verdict for client **Shell Oil Company** in a drinking-water contamination case tried over a period of almost five months in California Superior Court in San Bernardino, California. The City of Redlands, California, brought suit against Shell, seeking compensatory and punitive damages for alleged malice relating to contamination of groundwater. The City argued for **\$46 million** and an unspecified amount of punitive damages. On May 20, after four days of deliberations, the jury returned a defense verdict—*i.e.*, no liability—for Shell. This case was recently selected by the *Los Angeles Daily Journal* as one of the Top Ten Defense Verdicts of 2010.
- **2009:** After a three-week jury trial in Vidalia, Louisiana, Mr. Meadows' trial team won a defense verdict for **Chevron** in a case alleging property damage from historic oilfield operations in Concordia Parish, Louisiana. The plaintiff claimed that Chevron and the subsequent operators had knowingly contaminated the property with "toxic water" and "hazardous waste" from its oil and gas operations and demanded **\$125 million** to remediate the property, as well as punitive damages. Prior to trial, Chevron and the other defendants submitted a \$1 million remediation plan, which plaintiff refused. The jury rejected plaintiff's claims for negligence and punitive damages and, under a breach of contract claim, awarded the Chevron-proposed remediation costs of \$1 million.
- **2008:** A three-member AAA panel in Houston, Texas, rendered a take-nothing judgment in favor of **Chevron**. The plaintiff, LL&E, sued to enforce a 'preferential purchase right' on oil and gas properties valued at **\$600 million** that Chevron owned and sold to a competing purchaser, Hillcorp. LL&E claimed that Chevron wrongfully allowed Hillcorp access to certain seismic data that had been jointly developed by LL&E and Chevron, and Hillcorp was able to use the data to submit a lower bid. The arbitrators rejected the claim.
- **2008:** Mr. Meadows and team obtained a major victory on the eve of trial for **Cooper Industries** in a mass toxic tort case. The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky granted summary judgment against four bellwether plaintiffs. Plaintiffs contended that general evidence of contamination in the area, combined with alleged evidence of elevated chemicals in the plaintiffs' blood, was sufficient to show causation. The court disagreed.
- **2007:** In an arbitration held in New York City, King & Spalding and Mr. Meadows succeeded in enforcing an indemnity obligation that was obtained in 1974 when **Chevron** sold a nuclear fuel fabricating plant in Missouri to Combustion Engineering, Inc. (CE). As part of the consideration, CE agreed to assume and indemnify Chevron against all future loss or liability relating to the condition of the property. In 2003, Westinghouse Electric Company LLC, the current owner of the plant, filed a CERCLA cost recovery action against Chevron and others for past and future costs to remediate environmental contamination at the Missouri property. In addition, the state of Missouri filed a CERCLA natural resource damage claim, and neighbors filed toxic tort claims against Chevron for property damage. In reliance on the 1974 sale agreement, Chevron demanded indemnity from CE and its successor, Westinghouse, for all claims asserted against Chevron. These companies had denied their indemnity obligation, seeking to avoid a **\$150 million** clean up.
- **2007:** King & Spalding and Mr. Meadows successfully defended **Chevron** in a number of lawsuits filed by the Oklahoma Tax Commission claiming more than **\$100 million** in underpaid royalties, penalties and interest. After jury selection in one case and a ruling by the trial court

that the plaintiffs' damage theories failed as a matter of law, favorable settlements were reached that ended a decadelong litigation.

- **2007:** In a two-week class certification hearing, King & Spalding and Mr. Meadows defended **Chevron** in a putative class action in Orleans Parish, Louisiana, brought by plaintiffs alleging personal injuries from exposure to Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM) from nearby pipe yards that cleaned oilfield equipment. The Chevron team took the lead among various oil company defendants at the hearing and defeated class certification.
- **2006:** Mr. Meadows' team spent more than two weeks in a hearing in Mexico City, representing a **KBR, Inc.** subsidiary in a dispute against a subsidiary of Pemex (PEP), Mexico's national oil company. King & Spalding's client claimed to have suffered significant losses resulting from PEP's failure to perform under an EPC agreement entered in October 1997 for the construction of two large offshore platforms and ancillary structures in the Bay of Campeche on the Gulf of Mexico for the treatment, processing and reinjection of natural gas. The principal claim turned on whether PEP had delayed and disrupted the construction and improperly refused to pay certain change orders. A complete victory was obtained in 2010, when The International Court of Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) awarded approximately **\$350 million** in damages, fees, expenses and interest accrued to date.
- **2005:** After a pre-trial that lasted 18 months in federal court in New Mexico, Mr. Meadows' team assisted **Chevron** and **Texaco** in securing a summary judgment, dismissing all claims by the state of New Mexico for natural resource damages totaling **\$5 billion**.
- **2004:** At the end of a seven-week jury trial in Houston, Texas, a unanimous defense verdict was delivered for King & Spalding client **Halliburton Energy Services**. The plaintiffs asked the jury for **\$140 million** because of the second and third degree burn injuries suffered by four workers from a chemical plant explosion in Pasadena, Texas. To win the case, plaintiffs needed only to convince the jury that Halliburton was 1% at fault.
- **2002:** A four-week jury trial in Brookhaven, Mississippi, ended with Mr. Meadows' team securing a defense verdict for **Chevron**; an award totaling **\$88,500** was divided among four plaintiffs. On similar claims of environmental damage to property caused by oil field pipe cleaning operations that released radioactive material, the same plaintiff lawyers had obtained a **\$1 billion** verdict against another major oil company in Louisiana a few months earlier. Following the jury trial, the judge held a week-long evidentiary hearing on whether plaintiffs' claim for punitive damages could proceed. He ruled for Chevron and denied plaintiffs a jury trial on their punitive damages claim.
- **2001:** King & Spalding and Mr. Meadows obtained a unanimous jury verdict for **Compressor Engineering Company** in Houston, Texas, defeating the plaintiff's claim of disability and a lost career as a country and western singer, all said to have resulted from exposure to hydrogen sulfide that escaped due to defendants' manufacture and installation of a defective valve. The victory occurred in a retrial ordered by the district court judge; the first trial was defended by another firm and ended in a plaintiff verdict.
- **2000:** Mr. Meadows and his team defended **Halliburton Company** at a trial in Mobile, Alabama, in a case involving claims of breach of fiduciary duty and theft of trade secrets. Plaintiffs sought more than **\$23 million**; the jury returned a complete defense verdict.

## RECOGNITION

- Chambers USA (2004-2012 consecutively)
- Texas Super Lawyers (2003-2012 consecutively)
- BTI Client Service All-Star (2008-2010 consecutively)
- Legal 500 exceptional legal counsel - energy litigation (2009-2012)
- Best Lawyers in America (2003-2013 consecutively)

## NEWS & INSIGHTS

### NEWS

- 23 Dec 2014** Five King & Spalding Partners Lauded as 2014 Law360 MVPs
- 09 Dec 2014** Environmental MVP: King & Spalding's Robert Meadows | *Law360*
- 08 Jul 2014** Legal 500 US Ranks 21 King & Spalding Practices, Recognizes 79 of Firm's Lawyers in 2014 Guide to Leading U.S. Law Firms
- 13 Jun 2014** King & Spalding Earns 34 Practice Rankings and 125 Individual Rankings in Chambers USA 2014 Guide
- 03 Jun 2013** Legal 500 Recognizes King & Spalding with 20 practice, 87 lawyer rankings in 2013 US Edition
- 28 May 2013** King & Spalding Earns 35 Practice and 119 Lawyer Rankings in 2013 Chambers USA Guide
- 20 Sep 2012** Super Lawyers Names 13 King & Spalding Lawyers Among the Best in Texas
- 23 Aug 2012** King & Spalding Lawyers Earn 232 Listings in 2013 Best Lawyers in America Guide
- 30 May 2012** Legal 500 Recognizes 21 King & Spalding Practices And 68 Firm Lawyers in Latest U.S. Guide
- 01 Sep 2011** Houston – A Beacon Of Light For Those Seeking Opportunity | *The Metropolitan Corporate Counsel*

31 Aug 2011 King & Spalding Lawyers Earn 203 Listings in 2012 Best Lawyers in America Guide

06 Jun 2011 King & Spalding Profile in Legal 500's U.S. Guide Swells to 17 Practice and 55 Individual Rankings

10 Feb 2011 King & Spalding Adds 14-Attorney Litigation Team | *The AmLaw Daily*

10 Feb 2011 King & Spalding Adds 14 Litigators From Filice Brown | *The Recorder*

07 Feb 2011 King & Spalding files amicus curiae brief in American Electric Power Co. v. Connecticut before the U.S. Supreme Court

18 Jan 2011 Top Verdicts of 2010 | *Los Angeles and San Francisco Daily Journal*

04 Nov 2010 King & Spalding Elects Eight New Partners

14 Sep 2010 13 King & Spalding Attorneys Recognized as 'Texas Super Lawyers'

15 Jun 2010 King & Spalding Well-Represented in 2010 Edition of Legal 500: US Guide Recognizes 26 Lawyers, 10 Practice Areas | *Legal 500*

26 Jan 2010 Bobby Meadows Lauded for Superior Client Service Three Years in a Row

13 Jan 2010 King & Spalding Obtains \$350 Million Arbitration Award Against Mexico's National Oil Company

01 Sep 2009 Secrets of Success - Why Some Firms Prosper In Today's Tough Environment | *The Metropolitan Corporate Counsel*

29 Jun 2009 King & Spalding Lawyers Receive 28 Rankings in 2009 U.S. Edition of Legal 500 | *Legal 500*

12 Jun 2009 King & Spalding Lawyers Earn 120 Spots In Chambers USA 2009 Rankings | *Chambers USA*

08 Jan 2009 Bobby Meadows Lauded for Superior Client Service in National Survey

17 Sep 2008 116 King & Spalding Lawyers Named in 2009 Best Lawyers in America Guide | *Best Lawyers in America*

20 Jun 2008 King & Spalding Well-represented In 2008 Edition of Legal 500: US | *Legal 500*

02 May 2008 King & Spalding Strengthens Its Texas Presence With Office in Austin; Arrival of Mike Stenglein Broadens Energy Practice

01 Apr 2008 Big Suits: Adams et al. v. Cooper Industries et al. | *The American Lawyer*

08 Feb 2008 King & Spalding Earns Victory In Mass Toxic Tort Case for Cooper Industries

28 Nov 2007 Meadows, Richards Lauded for Superior Client Service in National Survey

28 Sep 2007 Texas Super Lawyers Names Ten King & Spalding Attorneys as Experts in Their Fields

06 Sep 2007 King & Spalding Continues to Bolster Arbitration Practice

04 Sep 2007 102 King & Spalding Lawyers Named in 2008 Best Lawyers in America Guide | *Best Lawyers in America*

29 May 2007 Five King & Spalding Litigation Practice Areas Ranked in The Legal 500 US; 17 Lawyers Named Leaders in Their Fields | *Legal 500*

05 Oct 2006 Eleven King & Spalding Attorneys Named "Texas Super Lawyers" in 2006

05 Sep 2006 103 King & Spalding Lawyers Selected for Best Lawyers in America | *Best Lawyers in America*

24 Jan 2006 King & Spalding Elects Robert E. Meadows Managing Partner of Houston Office

17 Oct 2005 Nine King & Spalding Attorneys Named 'Texas Super Lawyers' | *Texas Super Lawyers*

11 Aug 2005 81 King & Spalding Lawyers Selected for Best Lawyers in America | *Best Lawyers in America*

22 Feb 2005 King & Spalding reaches 10th anniversary in Houston

18 Oct 2004 69 King & Spalding Lawyers Selected for Best Lawyers in America

#### PUBLICATIONS

22 Sep 2014 Business Lit Ledger – Fall 2014

28 May 2014 Business Lit Ledger – Spring 2014

07 Feb 2014 Business Lit Ledger – Winter 2014

05 Nov 2013 Business Lit Ledger - Fall 2013

02 Oct 2013 Business Lit Ledger – Summer 2013