

## PAUL BENNETT | PARTNER

Paul Bennett is a trial lawyer who has practiced in the state and federal courts for almost 20 years. He has extensive experience defending and prosecuting a broad range of complex litigation including products liability, construction defects and disputes, construction site injury claims, professional malpractice claims, fire cases, trucking liability, general negligence and commercial disputes. He has successfully tried numerous cases to verdict in courts throughout Texas, as well as before arbitration panels. These trials have included everything from dog bites, to dram shop claims to multi-million dollar construction defect disputes.

Paul frequently represents clients in the construction, transportation, distribution, and manufacturing sectors. He also represents professionals such as real estate brokers, real estate appraisers and accountants in professional liability matters, including before professional boards and licensing agencies. He is a frequent and featured speaker on Texas legal topics at professional conferences throughout the United States.

### Representative Experience

*Products/Fire liability* – Achieved defense verdict for electrical contractor at jury trial of a fire case involving property damage claim in excess of \$500,000.

*Medical device product liability* – Achieved a favorable, early settlement for distributor in multi-party products liability case involving amputation that went on with other parties for years afterwards.

*Wrongful death* – Defended general contractor and obtained complete summary judgment in seven figure claim filed by the family of a deceased subcontractor employee.

*Dram shop (alcohol liability)* – Achieved defense verdict for restaurant and bar following jury trial of a dram shop case filed by Plaintiff assaulted by allegedly intoxicated patron.

*Professional malpractice* – Defended real estate appraisers facing multi-million dollar malpractice claims involving undeveloped tracts near downtown Fort Worth and also in Parker County, Texas (separate cases). Received complete summary judgment for clients in both cases.

*Professional malpractice* – Defended real estate appraisers before the Texas Appraiser Licensing and Certification Board and obtained substantial reductions of proposed penalties and sanctions against them in enforcement proceedings.

*Transportation* - Defended national retailer and its truck driver at trial, with a jury verdict of less than 15% of Plaintiff's last demand, and less than half of the client's last offer before trial.

*Alleged construction defect* - Defended a roofing subcontractor against over \$10 million in construction defect claims by a condominium homeowner's association and the general contractor, with an arbitration award of \$365,000 against Plaintiff's last demand of \$4 million. This favorable award resulted in the favorable settlement of five other claims against the same client.

*Multi-vehicle rear end collision* - Defended a construction company and its driver at jury trial, obtaining defense verdict.

*Salmonella food poisoning* – Achieved defense verdict for national restaurant chain at trial.

*Catastrophic business losses* -- Represented numerous companies, large and small, in the rapid investigation, assessment and protection of client rights.

*OSHA investigations* - Represented numerous employers and defended against proposed citations and penalties, including contested cases before the Occupational Safety & Health Review Commission.



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### Areas of Practice

Complex litigation  
Construction litigation  
Personal injury defense  
Products liability defense  
Professional liability defense  
Negligence and general tort defense  
Arbitration, mediation and ADR

### Bar & Court Admissions

Texas  
U.S. District Court Northern District of Texas  
U.S. District Court Southern District of Texas  
U.S. District Court Eastern District of Texas  
U.S. District Court Western District of Texas

### Education

J.D. Texas Tech University School of Law  
Lubbock, Texas, 1993  
B.A. Austin College, Sherman, Texas, 1989

### Professional Associations

State Bar of Texas  
Texas Association of Defense Counsel  
Dallas Bar Association  
Defense Research Institute  
Construction Law Section, State Bar of Texas  
Litigation Counsel of America, the Trial  
Lawyer Honorary Society (Fellow)  
Diversity Law Institute  
Trial Law Institute

### Honors and Awards

Texas Rising Stars, 2005, published by  
Thomson Reuters  
Fellow, Litigation Counsel of America