



→ Amanda L. Cottrell

Partner

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Amanda Cottrell is a partner in the Business Trial Practice Group in the firm's Dallas office.

Areas of Practice

At its core, Amanda's practice is about one thing: protecting her clients' money and property. She handles complex commercial disputes that often revolve around contested contract terms in debt instruments, leases, purchase agreements, or trusts. Her work spans development, real property matters, bankruptcy litigation, business break-ups, fiduciary and corporate fraud while maintaining strategic advocacy to safeguard her clients.

Amanda's practice centers on protecting critical infrastructure that communities rely on. From representing national communications company to ensure access to vital broadband services for Texans, to handling data center disputes nationwide, her work safeguards essential services and assets. She litigates disputes involving energy storage systems, oil and gas operations, commercial leases, and multifamily housing. She maintains this focus on preserving infrastructure vital to communities and businesses.

Amanda's versatility is her strength. As lead counsel in both state and federal courts in Texas and California, she regularly handles cases from initial strategy through trial. Her recent successes include winning a favorable jury verdict in a 10-week California trial in 2024.

Client Industries

Amanda has specialized knowledge in sectors that form the backbone of modern infrastructure: data centers, telecommunications, renewable energy, oil and gas, commercial real estate, healthcare, affordable housing, and financial services. This combination of technical aptitude and industry knowledge allows her to quickly grasp complex IT systems, lead-to-cash processes, and the technical nuances that drive her clients' industries and services. Amanda's colleagues frequently bring her in to either lead multidisciplinary litigation teams or serve as local counsel in Texas.

Professional Recognition and Community Involvement

Amanda is an avid distance runner, earning two varsity letters in cross country and track at Vanderbilt University. Her endurance and mental tenacity shine through in her law practice. Amanda's efforts have been recognized by colleagues and peers in a variety of legal publications, including Best Lawyers, Super Lawyers, Thomson Reuters and D Magazine.

Amanda is a current Director on the Board of Directors of the Dallas Bar Association. For the past six years, Amanda has served as co-chair for the North Texas Food Bank's *Food from the Bar/Partners 4 Hope* annual giving campaign that has provided over 1.5million nutritious meals to local families.

Honors

Best Lawyers in America, *Best Lawyers*, 2024-2026
Presidential Citation, Dallas Bar Association, 2024
Best Lawyers in Dallas, *D Magazine*, 2022
Texas Top Women - Rising Stars, *Super Lawyers*, 2022
Texas Rising Star, *Super Lawyers*, 2016-2022
Best Lawyers Under 40, *D Magazine*, 2019-2021
Dallas Bar Association WE LEAD Class of 2019

Articles

- What I've Learned about motherhood and the myth of work-life balance
Fast Company, 03.06.2025
- Sheppard Mullin Kicks Off 2025 EAJ Campaign
Headnotes, Dallas Bar Association, 09.2024
- Raising the Bar: Dallas Lawyers Give to North Texas Food Bank
Headnotes, Dallas Bar Association, 08.2024
- By Ditching Chevron Deference, SCOTUS Drastically Changes the Litigation and Compliance Landscape
The Texas Lawbook, 07.17.2024
- A Journey of Gratitude and Friendship: An Interview with Frank Stevenson
The Texas Lawbook, 02.14.2024
- Zoomed to Perfection: Lawsuits Settled, Pajamas Approved
Headnotes Dallas Bar Association, February 2024
- How SCOTUS 'Shook the Rails' on State Court Jurisdiction
The Texas Lawbook, 07.12.2023
- Justices' Jurisdiction Ruling Could Increase Business Liability
Law360, 06.02.2022

Corporate & Securities Law Blog Posts

- "No Move to Greener Pastures: Texas Business Court Holds Parties May Not Remove Pre-September 1, 2024 Cases to New Court System," December 10, 2024
- "Texas Revolution: State Legislature Creates New Business Court System to Handle Significant Commercial Disputes," July 28, 2023

Media Mentions

Law360's 2023 Texas Editorial Advisory Board
Law360, 08.30.2023

Donor Spot
North Texas Food Bank Blog, 03.28.2022

Alpha Media Hits Ch. 11 To Beat COVID-19 'Headwinds'
Law360, 01.25.2021

Sheppard Mullin Adds Dallas Litigation Partner
The Texas Lawbook, 05.13.2019

Speaking Engagements

- "Exit Strategies Under Pressure: Foreclosure, Bankruptcy, and the End of Extend-and-Pretend," IMN's Distressed CRE East, October 16, 2025

Events

Do We Still Have A Deal? An Overview of Force Majeure and "Impossibility" In Texas Contracts Webinar, 03.26.2020

Memberships

Secretary, Dallas Chapter, Women in White Collar Defense Association

Member, Oil, Gas & Energy Resources Law Section, State Bar of Texas

At-Large Director of the Dallas Bar Association's Board of Director's 2024-2026

Member, Energy Section, Dallas Bar Association

Fellow, Texas Bar Foundation

Podcasts & Webinars

Do We Still Have A Deal? An Overview of Force Majeure and "Impossibility" In Texas Contracts
03.26.2020

Practices

Litigation

Bankruptcy Litigation

White Collar Defense and Investigations

Real Estate, Energy, Land Use & Environmental

Land Use Litigation

Bankruptcy and Restructuring

Construction

Distressed Real Estate Loan Workouts and Enforcement

Industries

Energy, Infrastructure and Project Finance

Education

J.D., Southern Methodist University, 2008, *magna cum laude*, *Order of the Coif*

B.A., Vanderbilt University, 2005, *summa cum laude*

Admissions

California

Texas

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