

Mark C. Rodriguez

Partner Houston

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Mark Rodriguez is a trial lawyer with nearly 25 years of experience representing companies in high-stakes litigation, particularly in matters involving the energy industry.

From class actions to False Claims Act claims to actions by the Federal government, Mark has represented companies in lawsuits, appeals, and arbitrations all across the country, including Texas, Alaska, Colorado, Florida, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Utah, and Wyoming.

Mark has defended energy companies in lawsuits and class actions involving claims for royalty underpayment, failure to develop or to protect against drainage, improper measurement, and numerous other types of claims. Mark has also represented companies in disputes under joint operating agreements, farmout agreements, purchase and sale agreements, and other energy-related deals and transactions. In addition, Mark has extensive experience representing lessees and producers in audits by state and Federal governments, administrative appeals, False Claims Act/qui tam and civil penalty actions, and investigations by the Department of Justice, Department of Interior, and other state and Federal agencies.

Mark applies a keen focus to his clients' business and legal needs in order to maximize their position and get the best result in every case, whether dealing with individuals, companies, or the state or Federal governments. Mark's extensive experience in the energy industry allows him to bring a practical, pragmatic approach to every case and every dispute.

Mark has been widely recognized by his peers and others in the industry, having been named a Texas *Super Lawyer* from 2014-2018, 2023, among *The Best Lawyers in America* (Commercial Litigation and Energy Law) from 2014-2024, and by *Legal 500 U.S.*, Energy Litigation Law, in 2019. Mark is a frequent speaker and panelist at national and statewide CLE programs.

Mark and his wife, Cristina, have two daughters, Ana Maria and Alexandra. Mark serves on a number of non-profit boards, including Kids' Meals, Inc., Breakthrough Houston, and the Board of Trustees of St. John's School.

HONORS & AWARDS

- Lawdragon 500 Leading Energy Lawyers, Energy Litigation, 2024
- Lawdragon 500 Leading Litigators in America, Complex Litigation, esp. Energy, 2022 & 2024
- Named in *The Best Lawyers in America* for Commercial Litigation and Energy Law, 2014 - 2024
- Named in Thomson Reuters Texas *Super Lawyers*, 2014 - 2018, 2020, Energy & Resources, 2022 - 2023
- Recognized in *Legal 500 United States* for Energy Litigation Law, 2011, 2012, and 2019

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

PRACTICES

Bankruptcy Adversary Proceedings

Energy Litigation

Commercial Litigation

ADMISSIONS

State Bar of Texas

United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas

United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth and Tenth Circuits

EDUCATION

J.D., Harvard Law School, 1995

B.A., Rice University, Psychology, 1992

- Don't Judge a Lessee by Its Relatives: Affiliate Transactions in Royalty Litigation, 2021

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES & MEMBERSHIPS

- State Bar of Texas Oil and Gas Pattern Jury Charge Committee, 2011 - Current
- State Bar of Texas Oil, Gas and Energy Resources Law Section Council, 2011 - 2014
- Institute of Energy Law Advisory Board
- American Bar Association
- Energy Litigation Committee, American Bar Association's Section of Litigation
- Houston Bar Association

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Kids' Meals, Inc.
- Breakthrough Houston
- St. John's School Board of Trustees

