

Texas Powerhouse: Beck Redden

By **Spencer Brewer**

Law360 (September 22, 2026, 4:00 PM EDT) -- When Beck Redden LLP partner Alistair Dawson died suddenly in 2025, an associate working with him on what would become the first jury trial in the Texas Business Court tried the case for the firm's client, plaintiff Albert Theodore Powers.

Powers prevailed after the jury found Allen Lawrence Berry and Marvin "Marty" Glenn Berry breached a 2019 investment agreement that Powers said granted him a 20% ownership stake in a terminal project on the Gulf Coast, subject to conditions. Beck Redden tried the case alongside lead counsel Roland Garcia and his team at Greenberg Traurig LLP.

That transition following Dawson's passing spoke to the "high degree of collaboration" and resilience present in the firm, said Beck Redden partner Russell Post, who heads up the firm's appellate practice. The firm's victory in that case, and other legal victories, earned the firm a spot on Law360's Regional Powerhouses of 2026.

Other partners and associates similarly stepped up to take other cases Dawson had been handling.

"You can never say there's a truly seamless transition when you lose a lawyer with the stature and talent of Alistair, but I can say that we were able to maintain our responsibilities to all our clients very effectively, and we were very proud," he said. "We frankly felt like it was an act of loyalty to Alistair to make sure we fulfilled those obligations."

With 46 lawyers, all located in Houston, Beck Redden racked up multiple notable wins over the past year alongside the victory in the Texas Business Court, including a finding by the U.S. Supreme Court that a suit against Hain Celestial Group and Whole Foods over allegedly tainted baby food was not properly removed to federal court.

The Hain decision represented the kind of jurisdictional and procedural question that one would think the nation's high court had answered, but it in fact had not, Post said. The high court said in a unanimous opinion that a final decision cannot stand when an appellate court finds that a nondiverse party — in this case, Whole Foods — was wrongly dismissed from a case that had been removed from Texas state court. Post represented the plaintiffs in the case, Sarah and Grant Palmquist.

In addition to the Hain decision, Beck Redden represented Drayton McLane Jr., former owner of the



Houston Astros, in a dispute arising from the \$615 million sale of the franchise and a related regional sports network. Houston Baseball Partners, owned by current Astros owner Jim Crane, brought claims exceeding \$440 million. That case settled on the second day of trial. The details of the deal weren't disclosed.

Beck Redden's attorneys specialize in a wide variety of practice areas, including energy litigation, personal injury, contract disputes and bankruptcy proceedings. Founded in 1992 as one of what Post described as the vanguard boutique litigation firms in Houston, Beck Redden was not always as diversified.

"A lot of diversification was organic, because as a litigation boutique, much of business flows from significant events, whether they be local or at the national level," said Matthew Whitley, partner at Beck Redden.

That diversification was not accidental, Post said.

"One thing that is important is you see a generational transition from the founders of the firm, who, in those earlier days, had an outsized influence on the composition of the docket, and then two additional generations — now, I would say, even three generations — of successive partners building out their own respective practices," he said.

While the firm has branched out over the years, commercial litigation with a slant toward the energy sector remains the top practice area within the firm, Whitley said.

Aside from work in the energy sector for clients like Exxon Mobil and Chevron, Beck Redden does a lot of work in IP, products liability, healthcare, real estate and manufacturing.

"We have a combination of what I would call large blue-chip clients who come back to us on a regular basis, and then, as a litigation boutique, of course we're going to have more one-off clients who have some significant piece of litigation and hire us to handle it, but they don't necessarily have repeat business," Whitley said.

Those one-off engagements reflect the essence of the firm's identity, Post said. Over a two-year cycle, the top 10 clients by revenue change significantly, he said.

The local market in Texas in general and Houston specifically remain strong, Whitley said. Houston remains the energy capital of the world, and as such has a robust legal market. The firm will continue to grow, but will do so intelligently, Post said.

"We've been very demanding about maintaining the firm's culture, so we don't grow for the sake of growth," Post said. "We grow incrementally as we have opportunities to bring people who fit that identity to the firm."

--Editing by Michael Watanabe.