



Chanler A. Langham Partner

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Overview

Chanler Langham is an accomplished trial lawyer and Partner in the Houston office of Susman Godfrey LLP. In the past few years alone, Mr. Langham has obtained several significant, precedent-setting legal victories. He litigates and manages complex commercial matters for plaintiffs and defendants in federal and state courts throughout the country involving antitrust, intellectual property, toxic torts, executive compensation, oil and gas, products liability, and complex breach of contract issues. Mr. Langham has tried and won several jury trials, bench trials, and injunctions for his clients. He has won appeals in the 2nd Circuit, 5th Circuit, and Texas Court of Appeals. He also has successfully secured several multi-million dollar settlements.

Mr. Langham's client achievements and leadership have been recognized in the national legal community. He is Vice Chair of the Trial Practice Committee for the American Bar Association's Antitrust section. He has been honored on *Benchmark Litigation's* [Under 40 Hot List](#) since 2016 and as a "Rising Star" by *Texas Super Lawyers* since 2012. Mr. Langham has been rated as a "Top 100 Trial Lawyer" by The National Black Lawyers group three years in a row and was named to *Savoy Magazine's* 2018 list of [The Most Influential Black Lawyers](#).

Before joining Susman Godfrey, Mr. Langham worked as a law clerk for Judge Vanessa D. Gilmore in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas. He earned his J.D. from Columbia Law School as a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar and graduated magna cum laude from The George Washington University Honors Program, where he received a B.A. in International Affairs and Japanese Language and Literature. Mr. Langham is licensed to practice in both Texas and New York.

Mr. Langham's service continues outside the courtroom. He serves as Co-Chair of the Houston Bar Association's Communities in the Schools Committee and was previously a Board Member for Writers in the Schools, an organization that engages children in reading and creative writing. Mr. Langham also mentors students at the University of Houston Law Center and University of Texas Law School.

Education

- Columbia Law School (J.D., Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar)
- The George Washington University Honors Program (B.A., magna cum laude, Japanese Language and Literature; and International Affairs with concentration in East Asian Studies)
- Kyoto University

Clerkship

Law Clerk to The Honorable Vanessa D. Gilmore, United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas (2004-2006)

Wins

- ***Rebellion Energy v. Liberty Resources*** (Houston, Texas). In November 2019 Langham secured a significant win for Liberty Resources when the Texas Court of Appeals for the First District ruled that Liberty would not be forced to arbitrate a dispute over a bill in its \$106 million energy deal with Rebellion Energy. The Appeals court held that the arbitration agreement between Rebellion and Liberty is too narrow to cover the disputed \$750,000 bill and that it would “produce absurd results” if the arbitration provision could be read to require an accounting arbitrator to decide issues simply because Rebellion includes them in a dispute notice. Read more about the case in *Law360*’s coverage [here](#) (subscription required).
- ***Jibe Audio LLC et al. v. Jimmy Iovine et al.*** (Los Angeles, CA). In June 2018, Langham tried and won a \$25.25 million jury verdict for client, Steven Lamar, in a breach of contract dispute against Dr. Dre and Jimmy Iovine over royalties owed for Lamar’s role in designing the iconic Beats headphones. The jury found that Beats breached the agreement and should pay royalties to Lamar on the Studio 2, Studio Wireless, and Studio 3 headphones. Reports on the trial victory may be found in [The Hollywood Reporter](#), [Billboard](#), [Variety](#), [Bloomberg](#), and [Law 360](#)
- ***Alley Theatre vs. Hanover Insurance*** (Houston, Texas) In early 2020 Langham secured a partial summary judgment win for Houston’s historic Alley Theatre in an insurance coverage lawsuit. The suit claimed the theatre was not properly reimbursed by Hanover Insurance Company for claims related to business interruption losses sustained during Hurricane Harvey. Langham and a team from Susman Godfrey represented the theatre pro bono.
- ***PMC v. Gemstar-TV Guide International (now named Tivo)*** (Dallas, Texas) In August 2017, Langham tried and won an arbitration of a licensing dispute on behalf of Personalized Media Communications (PMC) against Gemstar-TV Guide International, formerly known as Rovi Guides, and now known as Tivo. PMC’s arbitration victory ends a dispute that lasted nearly 15 years, including two trips to the Federal Circuit.
- ***In Re: Automotive Parts Antitrust Litigation***(E.D. Mich.) In one of the largest price-fixing cartels ever brought to light, Langham and a team of Susman Godfrey lawyers serve as co-lead counsel for a class of consumer plaintiffs in multidistrict price-fixing cases. The actions, alleging anti-competitive conduct, were brought by indirect purchasers of component parts included in over 20 million automobiles. The Susman Godfrey team, together with its co-lead counsel, has reached settlements with certain defendants of over \$1 billion.
- ***Wal-Mart Stores Inc. et al. v. Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission et al*** (Western District, Texas) In March 2018, Langham tried and won a bench trial on behalf of Walmart in a federal lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of Texas laws that prohibit publicly traded companies from selling liquor in Texas. The [District Court](#) ruled in Walmart’s favor by striking down provisions of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code under the Dormant Commerce Clause and the Equal Protection Clause.
- ***CafeX Communications Inc. v. Amazon Web Services, Inc.*** (New York, NY). In March 2017, Langham successfully defeated a preliminary injunction request on behalf of online retail sales giant Amazon in a trademark infringement and unfair competition suit concerning the “Chime by CafeX” web collaboration tool released by CafeX Communications, and the “Amazon Chime” web conferencing solution released by Amazon Web Services. The Federal District Court reasoned that CafeX failed to make a sufficient case of likelihood of confusion, adequate use in commerce, or irreparable harm.

- **Thatcher v. Wal-Mart**(Benton County, Arkansas) In November 2016, Langham tried and won a jury trial on behalf of Wal-Mart against a plaintiff who claimed that a gasoline container sold by Walmart 10 years ago was defective because it ruptured when the plaintiff poured methanol on an open flame. Plaintiff sought over \$15 million in actual damages. The jury issued a take-nothing judgment for our client, Wal-Mart.
- **McManaway, et al. v. KBR, Inc.**(S.D. Tex.) In October 2015, Langham won summary judgment against all claims asserted by over 160 National Guard combat troops who sought over \$1 billion in damages based on alleged chemical exposure during the Iraq War while deployed by the U.S. Army to provide force protection at an Iraq-owned water treatment plant.
- **Personalized Media Communications, LLC v. Echostar Corp. and DISH Network** (E.D. Tex.) In May 2015, Langham won a confidential multi-million dollar settlement on behalf of Personalized Media Communications (PMC) in a patent infringement action against DISH/EchoStar. PMC alleged that DISH infringed several patents related to the encryption and decryption of satellite signals.
- **Dig Tech v. Star Operations**(Caldwell County, Texas) In March 2015, Langham tried and won a breach of contract lawsuit on behalf of Austin-based Dig Tech against San Antonio-based Star Operations. Dig Tech alleged that Star Operations agreed to pay for construction work on the State Highway 130 Tollway. Star Operations claimed it did not have to pay for the work because Dig Tech did not secure a signed contract. The jury ruled unanimously in favor of Dig Tech. On July 27, 2017, the Texas Court of Appeals [affirmed](#) the judgment.
- **Mobius Medical Systems, LP v. Sun Nuclear Corporation** (S.D. Tex.) In December 2013, Langham won a permanent injunction and confidential settlement on behalf of Mobius Medical Systems, LP, a radiation oncology software company, against its exclusive distributor Sun Nuclear, for trade secret misappropriation. (Lead Attorney)
- **Rhonda Hill Wilson v. American Association for Justice** (2nd Cir.) In November 2013, Langham won a motion to dismiss and appeal before the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on behalf of the American Association for Justice in a defamation and intentional infliction of emotional distress action filed by a former AAJ officer. (Lead Attorney)
- **Apple Houston Restaurants v. Restaurant Partnership of Central Texas** (Harris) In October 2013, Langham won a confidential settlement on the counterclaims of Restaurant Partnership of Central Texas in a breach of contract action. (Lead Attorney)
- **Lutfe Hassan v. ICS Nett Inc., et al.** (D. D.C.) In September 2013, Langham won a confidential settlement in a breach of asset purchase agreement matter on behalf of Lutfe Hassan, a former partner to a military contracting company. (Lead Attorney)
- **Torres et al v. Taylor** (Harris County) In August 2013, Langham won a confidential settlement on the counterclaims of an energy trading investor in a breach of contract and breach of fiduciary duty action. (Lead Attorney)
- **High Island Health, LLC and Jiro Takashima v. Libertybelle Marketing, Ltd.** (S.D. Tex.)- In 2011, Langham and Brian Melton won a confidential settlement in a “sex-toy” patent infringement action against Libertybelle Marketing, Ltd. on behalf of High Island Health, LLC and Jiro Takashima. Japanese inventor Takashima, and exclusive licensee, High Island Health (the English translation of Takashima’s last name) brought a patent infringement action against defendant Libertybelle Marketing, Ltd. concerning High Island’s patented Aneros prostate massagers, and Libertybelle’s infringing Nexus devices. After Libertybelle’s motion for summary judgment of invalidity failed and Judge Lynn H. Hughes set the parties for trial, defendant Libertybelle agreed to exit the U.S. market for the remaining term of the patent. Further terms of the settlement agreement are confidential.
- **Cernosek Enterprises, Inc. v. City of Mont Belvieu and Enterprise Products Operating, L.P.** (Texas First Court of Appeals) - In 2011, Langham and Thomas Paterson won a First Court of Appeals affirmance of a state trial court dismissal on behalf of Enterprise Products Operating. The plaintiff Cernosek Enterprises, Inc. sued the City of Mont Belvieu and Enterprise Products Operating alleging violations of Mont Belvieu’s municipal ordinances governing the issuance of drilling permits and zoning

for hydrocarbon storage well operations. The trial court granted Enterprise's plea to the jurisdiction contending that Cernosek lacked standing to enforce the municipal ordinances and dismissed with prejudice all of Cernosek's claims. In March 2011, the Court of Appeals for the First District of Texas affirmed.

- **Apache Corporation v. John Chevedden and KBR Inc. v. John Chevedden** (S.D. Tex.) - In 2010-2011, Langham and Geoffrey L. Harrison won two consecutive federal court judgments for Apache Corporation and KBR, Inc. authorizing the companies to exclude a purported shareholder's proposal from its proxy materials. Instead of following the normal course of obtaining a "no action" letter from the SEC, we filed suit in federal court, sought a speedy hearing, and sought a declaration that the companies properly may exclude the proposal from upcoming proxy materials under Rule 14a-8(b) because the purported shareholder failed to prove his status as a shareholder and his eligibility to submit a proposal. The Court ruled in Apache's and KBR's favor.
- **Metroplexcore, LLC v. Parsons Transportation, Inc. and METRO** (S.D. Tex.) - In 2010, Langham and Johnny Carter won a federal trial court dismissal of Metroplexcore's claims against Houston's Metropolitan Transit Authority ("METRO"). In connection with METRO's solicitation of bids for a passenger rail-line in Houston, Metroplexcore claimed that METRO wrongfully accepted a bid from Parsons. Judge Lynn H. Hughes of the Southern District of Texas dismissed Metroplexcore's claims against METRO for lack of standing and failure to exhaust administrative remedies.
- **Individual Networks v. Apple** (E.D. Tex.) - In 2009, Langham, Brian Melton, and Warren Burns settled a patent infringement lawsuit against Apple on behalf of Individual Networks pending in the Eastern District of Texas. The Individual Networks patent involved the algorithm used in Apple's iTunes store's customized advertising process. The settlement amount is confidential.
- **Apollo Energy, LLC, and ATEC Energy Ventures, LLC vs. Noble Energy, Inc.** (Arbitration) - In 2008, Langham and Mark L. Wawro settled an oil and gas breach of contract arbitration against Noble Energy on behalf of ATEC Energy Ventures, LLC and Apollo Energy, LLC. The contract involved an area of mutual interest provision for oil and gas exploration and development covering 6,662 acres of land in the Piceance Basin of Western Colorado.
- **Executive Compensation** (S.D. Tex.) - In 2008, Langham and Geoffrey L. Harrison settled an executive compensation lawsuit brought by the former chairman and CEO of our oil services industry client. The former executive alleged breach of his employment and stock option agreements. We filed a counterclaim based on the company's termination of the executive for cause, and sought cancellation of the executive's stock options and repayment of millions of dollars in compensation plus our attorneys fees. We filed an affirmative motion for summary judgment to establish our entitlement to this recovery as a matter of law. While the motion for summary judgment was pending, we were able to settle the case for a fraction of the amount that the executive claimed.
- **Elva Martinez Cuellar, et al. v. Pelonis Appliances, Inc. and Texas Instruments** (Dallas County) - In 2010, Langham represented component part manufacturer Texas Instruments and obtained a voluntary dismissal against plaintiffs and cross-claim defendants in a products liability, wrongful death, and statutory indemnity action involving a fire allegedly caused by a fan heater manufactured and by Pelonis. Langham met with engineers in Amsterdam, conducted site inspections in Indiana, and uncovered key documents in Nebraska that ultimately led to dismissal of all plaintiffs claims.
- **Texas Instruments** (Nationwide) - In 2006-2007, Langham organized, litigated, and obtained dismissals of over 30 products liability cases for Texas Instruments. These 30+ cases were spread out over 12 states and involved 3 wrongful death and survivor claims. Langham hired and managed 11 sets of local counsel, coordinated all discovery, deposed 50+ plaintiffs and experts, worked with leading fire cause and origin experts, and removed 20+ additional cases to federal and state Multi-District Litigation.

Honors and Distinctions

- Honored with the [President's Award](#) by the Houston Bar Association (2020)
- Recognized for [Outstanding Antitrust Litigation Achievement in Private Law Practice](#) by the [American Antitrust Institute](#) (2019) for work on *In re: Automotive Parts Antitrust Litigation*.
- Recognized on Lawdragon 500's 2019 list of the country's Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyers ([2019](#))
- Benchmark Litigation's Under 40 Hot List, two years in a row (since 2016)
- "Texas Super Lawyers Rising Star," *Law & Politics Magazine* (Thomson Reuters; since 2012)
- *Savoy Magazine's* 2018 list of "The Most Influential Black Lawyers" (The Savoy Network, 2018). Click [here](#) and turn to page 14 for listing.
- The National Black Lawyers "Top 100 Trial Lawyers" (since 2016)
- H-Texas Magazine "Professional on the Fast Track" (2012, 2013, 2014)
- Columbia Law School, Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar (2002-2004)
- Nagashima, Ohno & Tsunematsu Fellowship in Japanese Law (2002)
- Frederick Douglass Moot Court (Northeast Regional Champions, 2002)

Professional Associations and Memberships

- American Bar Association, Antitrust Section, Vice Chair of Trial Practice Committee (2018-2019)
- Houston Bar Association, Ambassador (2019-2021)
- Houston Bar Association, Co-Chair of Communities in the Schools Committee (2018-2019)
- National Bar Association, Intellectual Property Section
- Texas Bar Foundation (Life Member)
- Writers in the Schools (Former Board Member)
- Sweatt Equity Group
- Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. — Nu Beta Chapter
- New York State Bar Association
- State Bar of Texas