

TEXAS BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS MANUAL

2020 Edition



Austin

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The use of the masculine gender in parts of this manual is purely for literary convenience and should, of course, be understood to include the feminine gender as well.

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PHILIP GLASSER, *Co-Chair*

Philip Glasser runs his own practice in Austin, Texas, helping clients with small business, property, estate planning, and probate matters. After attending law school in Houston, Texas, he moved to Austin to become part of the State Bar of Texas's Texas Opportunity & Justice Incubator program in 2017, which helped him start his own practice. He graduated from Indiana University, Bloomington in 2012 and graduated from South Texas College of Law in 2016. In his free time, he enjoys hiking and biking around Austin.

RUSSELL SLOAN, *Co-Chair*

Russell Sloan regularly practices in several areas of civil law and litigation as a solo practitioner, such as business, employment, and estate planning and probate. However, he often steps outside of those areas to work on other cases of interest. In 2019, Russell and his cocounsel successfully brought a constitutional challenge to a service-of-process statute in Texas landlord-tenant cases. It was a case of first impression, despite the use of that form of service to obtain default judgments in at least half a million cases in JP courts. A Dallas district court held that the statute violates constitutional due process rights and that any default judgments rendered pursuant to it are/were void. The state of Texas and its attorney general, Ken Paxton, are currently challenging that ruling on appeal. Russell currently represents over fifty plaintiffs in San Marcos, Texas, suing a large student housing property developer, as well as the largest third-party student property management company in the country, for fraud and deceptive trade practices. He also regularly provides pro bono assistance to low-income Texans. A native of Florida, Russell obtained a BS in Social Sciences from Florida State University and his JD from Florida State University College of Law.

SEHAR AIJAZ

Sehar Aijaz is a business law attorney serving entrepreneurs, small businesses, and nonprofits in the Greater Austin area. Sehar is licensed to practice law in Texas and has been a member of the bar since 2017. She focuses on business and nonprofit formation and governance and provides outside general counsel services to businesses across industries. She also advises entrepreneurs and business owners on intellectual property law and helps protect their IP portfolios. Sehar graduated from the National Law University, India, with a dual degree in Arts and Law in 2013. She is an alumna of the Texas Opportunity & Justice Incubator. Sehar has been on the board of the Austin Bar Association's Solo Small Firm section since 2018 and currently serves as the CLE chair. She is a member of the South Asian Bar Association of Austin, the Travis County Women Lawyers' Association, and the Mother Attorney Mentor Association of Austin. Sehar is a member of the Texas Bar College. In 2020, she was named a Texas Rising Star by Super Lawyers and listed as one of Austin's Top Attorneys in

Business Law by *Austin Monthly Magazine*. She is both a member of the Texas Business Organizations Manual Committee and a contributing author.

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Katie M. Anderson is a shareholder at Broude Smith Jennings & McGlinchey PC in Fort Worth, Texas. After earning a JD from SMU Dedman School of Law in 2012, Anderson began her legal career advising victims of natural disasters at the Small Business Administration's Office of Disaster Assistance. Over the course of her career, she has successfully represented real estate holding companies and clients from small start-ups to multinational corporations, conducting complex transactions. From 2017 to 2019, she served on the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and Executive Committee, and she is involved in promoting local business and a young professional community.

CODY DUMAS

Cody Dumas is the principal attorney at Dumas Law, PLLC, a Houston-based corporate litigation and transaction firm focused on complex corporate structuring, nonprofit formation and governance, provider-side medical billing issues, health-care compliance, and hospitality laws with clients located throughout Texas. Previously, Dumas was Chief Legal Officer for Advanced Diagnostics Hospitals & Clinics in Houston as well as Chief Legal Officer for the Landmark Houston Hospitality Group. Dumas is Director of Texas Helping Hearts Foundation, dedicated to assisting disadvantaged students across Texas. He also works as an Investigator for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. Dumas has a BS in Political Science and History from Texas A&M University and a JD in Corporate Law from Florida Coastal School of Law.

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Sara Anne Giddings practices estate planning, probate, business, and tax law as a solo practitioner in San Angelo, Texas. She works with individuals to develop estate planning solutions with an emphasis on income and estate tax planning, and she also works with small to midsize businesses—including wineries, oil and gas service companies, and investment companies—to develop business and tax planning strategies. Giddings currently serves as the Treasurer of the Texas Young Lawyers Association. She received the Legacy of Service Award in 2018, the Joseph M. Pritchard Inn Outstanding Director Award in 2017, and the Outstanding First Year Director Award in 2016 for her service to TYLA. Additionally, in 2016 Giddings received a Presidential Citation from State Bar of Texas President Allan DuBois. Giddings holds a JD from the University of Houston.

NEIL GORO

Neil Goro is a litigator turned corporate attorney. He began his legal career in litigation with a specialty practice in automotive products liability class actions. After this Goro became an entrepreneur, cofounding Modern Carbon Fiber, LLC, an automotive carbon fiber company, and served as its Chief Legal Officer. He then transitioned his law practice to corporate law with the purpose of providing legal counsel to other business owners. Goro is currently the principal attorney at Goro Law, PLLC, and practices in transactional corporate matters, including private placement securities offerings. He received a BS in Legal Studies from the University of Central Florida where he served on the Student Senate for two terms and authored legislation establishing the university's first Multicultural Student Center, and received a JD from Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School.

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Candace M. Groth is a corporate attorney with the Dallas, Texas, office of Virtus Law, PLLC. She regularly advises clients on cybersecurity, data privacy, and general corporate matters, with a focus in the technology, health-care, and real estate industries. After earning a JD from Hamline University School of Law in 2014, Groth served as a Judicial Law Clerk for the Honorable Christine A. Nowak on the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas. Groth is an active member of the Dallas Bar Association, Texas Bar College, DAYL Foundation, and Minnesota State Bar Association. She regularly speaks on cybersecurity and data privacy issues.

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Shahara Wright Menchan is a business law attorney and business strategist. Her practice focus includes mergers and acquisitions, venture capital financing, technology licensing, private sales of equity, and debt securities. She also advises clients on general corporate, business, and contractual matters. She is an award-winning author, host of Single Mom CEO, and an international speaker. Menchan has been the owner and Lead Attorney of The Wright Firm, PLLC in Houston, Texas, for over twenty years, and she works with small business owners and nonprofit leaders to implement strategy to build capacity as well as provide small and mid-sized companies and nonprofit organizations with legal and business strategies. Menchan is a member of the Local Advisory Committee for the Local Initiatives Support Corporation in Houston. She earned a BA in Sociology from Hampton University in 1995 and JS from Texas Tech School of Law in 1998.

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Emily Morris serves for the Austin Bar's Leadership Academy, Travis County Women Lawyers' Association, and the Women's Chamber of Commerce of Texas. She has advised businesses in technology, retail, manufacturing, real estate, and professional services, and she assists individuals and business owners with corporate and real estate legal needs. Her work includes entity formation and

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Johnathan E. Rightmyer is a shareholder in Rothrock & Rightmyer, PC in San Antonio, Texas. His practice areas are business and corporate transactions and litigation and areas involving the automobile industry. Rightmyer earned an MA in Economics from the University of Texas at San Antonio and a JD from St. Mary's University School of Law.

MURTAZA SUTARWALLA

Murtaza Sutarwalla is a founding partner of Edwards Sutarwalla PLLC in Houston and Austin, Texas. Sutarwalla is a business lawyer with a focus on formation, governance, corporate acquisitions and divestments, and advising entities at all stages of their business life cycle. He graduated with dual Business and Asian American Studies degrees from the University of Texas at Austin, followed by law school at the University of Chicago. He then practiced as a corporate and technology lawyer with Latham & Watkins LLP in Washington, DC, and then overseas in corporate departments of international law firms. Over the years, Sutarwalla has added a business litigation practice to complement his business transactional background at his law firm.