wkps | waters | kraus | paul | siegel

Christopher L. Johnson

PARTNER

PHONE: 214.357.6244

FAX: 214.357.7252

EMAIL: cjohnson@waterskraus.com

Chris Johnson is a partner in the Dallas office of Waters Kraus Paul & Siegel who represents individuals and families harmed by toxic exposures, dangerous products and institutional failures. His practice focuses on toxic torts and complex civil litigation, including cases involving mesothelioma caused by asbestos exposure, silicosis caused by exposure to engineered stone, and other serious injuries and illnesses caused by toxic substances. He also represents survivors of sexual abuse seeking accountability from organizations and institutions that failed to protect them.

Chris is a passionate advocate for clients, many of whom are facing devastating illnesses or life-changing injuries. A former prosecutor, he began his career in the courtroom and developed a strong ability to connect with juries and judges. As a trial lawyer, Chris approaches every case with a trial in mind, carefully considering how each decision will affect the jury and ultimately the outcome. At the same time, he believes clients should understand where they stand at every step of the process. He makes himself available to answer questions, explain what is happening and make sure clients feel heard and supported. He strives to look after his clients with the same care he would give a member of his own family.

Chris believes being a lawyer provides an opportunity to help people not only one client at a time, but also by helping make society better. He has advocated for clients before lawmakers and worked to educate policymakers about how their decisions affect real people. He remains committed to upholding the highest standards of the legal profession through leadership in professional organizations, mentoring younger lawyers and using his experience to advocate for people who need a voice.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

American Association for Justice
- Board of Governors, 2024-Present
- Minority Caucus
  - Chair, 2026-2027
  - Chair-Elect, 2025-2026
  - Treasurer, 2024-2025
  - Secretary, 2023-2024
  - Board of Governors Representative, 2021-2023
- Committee Chair, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, Minority Caucus, 2020-21
- Member, National Finance Council, 2025-2026
- Member, FAIR Committee (Fairness, Access, Integration, and Representation), 2022-2026
- Member, Voter Protection Committee, 2021-2027

Dallas Asian American Bar Association
- Connections Committee member, 2015

Dallas Association of Young Trial Lawyers

Dallas Bar Association

Hawaii Association for Justice

National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA)

The National Trial Lawyers

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AREAS OF PRACTICE

Asbestos Litigation
Complex Civil Litigation
Personal Injury
Product Liability
Sexual Abuse
Toxic Tort
Wildfire Litigation

BAR ADMISSIONS

California, 2025
Hawaii, 2021
Oregon, 2019
Texas, 2009
Washington, 2020
U.S. District Courts:
- District of Hawaii, 2020
- District of Oregon, 2024
- Eastern District of Texas, 2022
- Southern District of Texas, 2020
- Northern District of Texas, 2012
- Western District of Washington, 2023
- Eastern District of Wisconsin, 2020

U.S. Supreme Court, 2018

EDUCATION

Southern Methodist University, Dedman School of Law, J.D., 2009

University of Texas at Austin, B.A., with honors, 2006

Christopher L. Johnson CONTINUED

PARTNER

Public Justice

Texas Trial Lawyers Association (TTLA) Board of Directors

HONORS & AWARDS

Top 100 Civil Plaintiff Trial Lawyers, The National Trial Lawyers, 2025-2026

Super Lawyers Texas Rising Star, 2018-2024

Leadership Academy Graduate, American Association for Justice, 2018

Prosecutor of the Year (Misdemeanor Division), Dallas County District Attorney's Office, 2013

SMU International Law Review Association, SMU, Dedman School of Law, 2008-2009

Dean's Scholarship Recipient, SMU, Dedman School of Law, 2006-2009

Phi Theta Kappa, 2002-2004

AV Preeminent®, Martindale-Hubbell

PRO BONO & COMMUNITY SERVICE

Board of Management, T. Boone Pickens YMCA, 2015-2018

Bedford Mentor, University of North Texas at Dallas College of Law, 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

Gary Paul Earns AAJ Lifetime Achievement Honor as Chris Johnson Named Chair of Minority Caucus

Chris Johnson Honored Among National Trial Lawyers' Top 100 Trial Lawyers

Chris Johnson Named to AAJ Board of Governors

Waters Kraus Paul & Siegel Attorneys Earn National Recognition

Four Firm Attorneys Recognized on 2020 Texas Rising Stars List

Victory for Assault Victim of Anti-Muslim Hate Group Leader

Dallas Attorneys Honored on Texas Super Lawyers Rising Stars List

Clarity in the Evolving World of E-Discovery

Family of Boston Letter Carrier Receives $6.8M Asbestos Verdict

Mesothelioma Victim Receives $7.55M Verdict

PUBLICATIONS & SPEECHES

Presenter, *Working Smarter…and Still Harder: How Trial Lawyers Use AI to Multiply their Effectiveness*, WTLA Ski Seminar, Breckenridge CO (March 2026)

Presenter, *Weaving Your Story Through Your Witness*, Minority Caucus and New York State Trial Lawyers Association (NYSTLA), New York NY (April 2026)

Presenter, *A Key to Success: Focus Groups*, AAJ Winter Convention, Miami FL (February 2025)

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Christopher L. Johnson CONTINUED

PARTNER

Presenter, *A Key to Success: Focus Groups*, WTLA Ski Seminar (February 2025)

Presenter, *Storytelling in Trial*, AAJ Winter Convention, Scottsdale AZ (February 2023)

Presenter, Dallas County District Attorney's Office Law Symposium (2014)

OTHER APPOINTMENTS

Affiliate Professor, University of North Texas at Dallas College of Law, 2016

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