Sydney Scott

Partner

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Houston



Sydney Scott is a partner in Gibson Dunn's Houston office and a lead trial lawyer clients turn to when significant commercial disputes are headed to trial. She is regularly called on to take command of complex, high-stakes disputes—including matters in which she has been retained just weeks before trial—quickly identify the issues that will matter to the judge or jury, and lead teams through trial. Her recent results include a $296 million jury verdict, complete injunctive relief following a federal bench trial, and a complete victory in a multimillion-dollar arbitration. She also has a strong appellate record, with significant victories in state and federal courts.

Sydney received her law degree from the University of Pennsylvania Law School, where she served as an Articles Editor for the *University of Pennsylvania Journal of Constitutional Law*. She graduated from Dartmouth College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English.

Sydney clerked for the Honorable Carl E. Stewart, then Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, and the Honorable James J. Brady of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana.

Before law school, Sydney played Division I basketball at Dartmouth, winning three Ivy League championships. She later played professionally in Copenhagen, where her team won the Danish Women's League championship. That competitive background continues to shape her approach to trial practice, preparation, and team leadership.

Sydney is admitted to practice in Texas and before the United States Courts of Appeals for the Fifth and Sixth Circuits and the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas.

Trials & Arbitrations

- ***Gray Development and Gray Services v. ZOM Holdings Inc.*** Served as trial counsel for Arizona developers Gray Development and Gray Services in a twelve-day jury trial in Arizona state court in Maricopa County arising from ZOM's misuse of Gray's proprietary development plans and breaches of non-circumvention and non-disclosure agreements. The jury returned a $296 million verdict for Gray. The victory earned Sydney recognition as Litigator of the Week, and the verdict was recognized as a Top 50 verdict of 2026.
- ***Good Samaritan Hospital, et al. v. The Leapfrog Group.*** Served as trial counsel for five Tenet Healthcare community hospitals in a federal bench trial in the Southern District of Florida, challenging Leapfrog's hospital safety-grading practices. Following trial, the court ruled for the hospitals, holding that the challenged methodology constituted an unfair and deceptive business practice under Florida law and granting the hospitals complete injunctive relief. The victory earned Sydney recognition as Litigator of the Week.

Capabilities

Litigation
Mass Torts and Product Liability
Oil and Gas
Power and Renewables
Sports Law
Trials

Credentials

Education

University of Pennsylvania - 2013 Juris Doctor

Dartmouth College - 2008 Bachelor of Arts

Admissions

Texas Bar

Clerkships

US Court of Appeals, 5th Circuit, Hon. Carl E. Stewart, 2014 - 2015

USDC, Middle District of Louisiana, Hon. James J. Brady, 2013 - 2014

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- ***Treyled Life Settlements LLC v. Campos Trust.*** Served as trial counsel for a five-day arbitration involving complex securities and state-law licensing issues. Obtained a complete victory for Treyled.
- ***Houston Humphreys v. Houston Street Partners, et al.*** Served as trial counsel in Nashville Chancery Court for a company owned by a real estate investment firm in a contract dispute involving the sale of a unique property in a revitalized historic neighborhood in Nashville.
- ***Petty Business Enterprises, L.P. v. Chesapeake Exploration, LLC, et al.*** Served as trial counsel for a royalty dispute in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Texas on behalf of mineral-interest owners against a major oil and gas operator and its non-operating working-interest owners. Secured a ruling awarding more than $8.4 million in damages and favorable interpretations of the governing leases.*
- ***Crimson Exploration Operating, Inc. v. BPX Operating Co.*** Served as trial counsel for an oil and gas operator in Harris County state court in a contract dispute involving unpaid invoices. The jury returned a unanimous $3.3 million verdict.*
- ***Newton v. Johnson & Johnson, et al.*** Retained just weeks before trial to serve as trial counsel for Johnson & Johnson in talc litigation involving allegations that talc-based baby powder caused the plaintiff's mesothelioma. The case resolved on confidential terms on the fifth day of trial.
- ***Sugarman v. Johnson & Johnson.*** Retained just weeks before trial to serve as trial counsel for Johnson & Johnson in talc litigation involving allegations that talc-based baby powder caused the plaintiff's ovarian cancer. After a three-week trial, the case resulted in a hung jury.
- ***Menor v. Estée Lauder, et al.*** Retained just weeks before trial to serve as trial counsel for Estée Lauder in talc litigation alleging that talc-based cosmetic products caused the plaintiff's mesothelioma. The case settled before trial.

Appeals

- ***Barras v. Reynolds & Reynolds.*** Secured mandamus relief from the Texas Fifteenth Court of Appeals dismissing a tortious-interference claim against a corporate general counsel in a dispute involving more than $350 million. The decision was the first Texas appellate decision applying attorney immunity to in-house counsel and the first grant of dispositive mandamus relief arising from the newly created Texas Business Court.
- ***Crimson Exploration Operating, Inc. v. BPX Operating Co.*** Successfully defended a $3.3 million jury verdict through appeals to the Texas Fourteenth Court of Appeals and the Texas Supreme Court, including on an issue of first impression.*
- ***Itabiriçu Nacional de Pesquisa Mineral Ltda. v. Vale S.A.*** Represented Vale S.A. in a case-ending appeal of a $500 million mineral-rights dispute. The Texas Thirteenth Court of Appeals reversed the trial court's denial of Vale's special appearance and rendered judgment dismissing all claims against Vale for lack of personal jurisdiction.
- ***Korean Claimants v. Claimants' Advisory Committee, et al. (In re Settlement Facility Dow Corning Trust).*** Successfully briefed and argued an appeal before the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit on behalf of the Finance Committee of the $1.95 billion Dow Corning Settlement Facility in a multimillion-dollar payment dispute brought by a class of South Korean claimants. The Sixth Circuit affirmed the district court's judgment in full.*

Awards & Recognition

- The American Lawyer: "Litigator of the Week," *Gray Development and Gray*

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Services v. ZOM Holdings Inc.

- The American Lawyer: "Litigator of the Week," *Good Samaritan Hospital, et al. v. The Leapfrog Group*
- The American Lawyer: "Litigator of the Week Shout-Out," *Itabiriçu Nacional de Pesquisa Mineral Ltda. v. Vale S.A.*
- Chambers USA, *Up and Coming, Litigation: General Commercial*
- Lawdragon 500 X - The Next Generation
- Benchmark Litigation, *40 & Under*
- Texas Super Lawyers, *Super Lawyer and Rising Star*
- Houston Business Journal, *Women Who Mean Business*

Community & Professional Involvement

- Board member, Texas Defender Service
- Board member, Lambda Legal's Houston chapter
- Board member, South Texas College of Law Houston

** Matter handled prior to joining Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP*

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