



John E. O'Neill

Partner

John O'Neill specializes in large-scale commercial litigation and arbitration, particularly securities claims, oil and gas litigation, trade secret and intangible property rights litigation, environmental litigation, and class action litigation. Mr. O'Neill has tried to verdict many state and federal court cases and arbitrations.

He secured the largest individual securities arbitration award ever obtained in 2002, represented the oil ministry of China in the 1989 *Daqing Petroleum* case, represented the US Government in securing multibillion-dollar *qui tam* settlements in the *Thompson v. Columbia* litigation in 2003, and has tried many oil and gas cases. He has tried many commercial arbitrations and served as an arbitrator in numerous large commercial arbitrations.

Mr. O'Neill served as a law clerk to Justice William Rehnquist during the US Supreme Court's 1974-1975 term. In 2004, he was selected by *Texas Lawyer* as "Impact Lawyer of the Year" and has been named a "Texas Super Lawyer" every year since the award was established.

Mr. O'Neill is also the author of *Unfit for Command*. With over 900,000 copies sold and four weeks as listed as #1 *New York Times* bestseller in September 2004, this book was ranked as #1 Hardcover Non-Fiction Bestseller on Amazon.com and the #5 on *New York Times* and *Washington Post* bestseller list for the year 2004. He has also been the subject of extensive biographies in the *New York Times*, *National Review*, *Houston Chronicle*, and *Texas Monthly*.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- *Basic Resources v. ELF Litigation*. Served as co-counsel for Brisa, obtaining, after numerous hearings and an arbitration, a large nine-figure settlement.
- *Daqing Petroleum Bureau v. Brinkmann*. Successfully represented the Oil Ministry of China in a jury trial in the first case ever filed by the Peoples' Republic of China in the United States.
- *Gyrodata v. Baker Hughes*. Secured a large settlement in a case involving theft of trade secrets based on complex and valuable technology.
- *Huff v. Pru Bache*. Obtained a rare punitive damage award from an NASD panel against a broker-dealer.
- *TPS v. Avanti*. In this case, after receiving summary judgment, the client recovered a favorable confidential amount from the defendants.

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ADMISSIONS

Texas

EDUCATION

University of Texas School of Law (JD, 1973), *Order of the Coif*, *summa cum laude*

Texas Law Review (1972-1973)

United States Naval Academy (BS, 1967)

CLERKSHIP

Hon. William Rehnquist, United States Supreme Court (1974-1975)

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- *Lerma v. Paine Webber, et seq.* This resulted in the largest individual arbitration award (and recoveries) ever received in an individual securities case in the United States.
- *Northern Natural, et al. v. ELF Aquitaine.* Successfully represented a consortium of working interest owners who gained control of a multibillion-dollar offshore oil block.
- *The Fiesta Cases.* In an early class action suit, a class of poor Hispanic depositors recovered more than \$11,000,000 from various defendants.
- *The Lansco Cases.* In twin cases, Lansco was first successfully defended against a theft-of-trade-secret claim in a jury trial. In the latter trial, a multimillion-dollar verdict was secured in favor of Lansco.

COURTS & ADJUDICATIVE BODIES

- United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit
- United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Member, American Bar Association (1978–present), Federal Regulation of Securities Committee; Section of Corporation, Banking and Business Law
- Grand Chancellor, Chancellors (1972–1973)
- Member, President's National Advisory Counsel on Supplemental Services and Centers (1973–1974)

PRO BONO

- David Al Kassab. Successfully defended a deportation action by the INS and secured religious asylum for a 14-year-old child. It was the first known action of this kind against the INS in the Houston area that was lost by the INS in over 14,000 cases.
- Monica Ajax. As co-counsel, secured a jury acquittal of a Sudanese refugee who had been accused of welfare fraud.

PUBLICATIONS & SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

BOOKS

Unfit for Command. Regnery Publishing, Washington, DC (2004).

IN THE NEWS

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"Man of the Year: John O'Neill." *Front Page Magazine* (December 30, 2004).

"What the Swifties Wrought: The Power of an Ad Campaign." *National Review* (November 29, 2004).

"Man of the Year: John O'Neill." *Human Events* (December 23, 2004).

"Texan of Year: Finalist." *Dallas Morning News* (2004).

"Impact Lawyer of the Year." *Texas Lawyer* (2004).

"Man of the Year." *MSNBC Scarborough Country* (2004).

"Courage Under Fire Award." *American Conservative Union (CPAC)* (February 18, 2005).

"Award Recipient." *Center for the Study of Popular Culture* (2004).

"Award Recipient." *The Council for National Policy* (2004).