



Craig W. Budner

Global Strategic Growth Partner

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OVERVIEW

Craig W. Budner is the firm's global strategic growth partner. In this role, Craig manages the global recruiting and integration functions for the firm. He also manages the firm's global business development, marketing, and media relations functions. Additionally, he serves on the firm's management and advisory committees.

As a practicing lawyer, Craig maintains a national practice concentrating in counseling commercial litigation and arbitration with a strong focus on outsourcing. He leverages his skills to benefit many clients in the outsourcing and financial services sectors. In addition to other accolades, Craig was recently recognized as "Lawyer of the Year" for Litigation – Banking & Finance, 2020. He was also named to the 2022 inaugural class of *D Magazine's* Best Lawyer Hall of Fame, a designation received by only 50 lawyers.

Craig has extensive experience representing major creditors and bondholders in bankruptcy-related litigation, as well as in a wide variety of commercial litigation common to technology companies and financial institutions. This includes:

- Arbitration and commercial litigation related to outsourcing transactions
- Business fraud litigation in state, federal and bankruptcy courts
- Representation of litigation trusts and creditors' committees in a variety of matters arising out of complex commercial bankruptcies

ACHIEVEMENTS

Craig has received many recognitions, including:

- Consistently recognized for the last 20 years with the prestigious Martindale-Hubbell AV Preeminent® rating, recognizing outstanding professional excellence, legal ability, and adherence to the highest ethical standards in the legal profession
- America's Most Honored Lawyers for 2020, 2021
- 2014 Recipient of The Jack Lowe Sr. Award for Community Leadership Award (Dallas Urban Debate Alliance)

- 2013 Recipient of the The Ann Loeb Sikora Humanitarian Award
- Best of the U.S., bankruptcy and commercial litigation, 2006 – present
- Texas Super Lawyers Corporate Counsel Edition, 2008 – present
- *Best Lawyers*® 2011-2020, 2022, and 2023 editions of *The Best Lawyers in America*®, Commercial Litigation; Litigation – Banking & Finance, Bankruptcy, Mergers and Acquisitions; “Lawyer of the Year” for Litigation – Banking & Finance, 2020
- Best Lawyers in Dallas, *D Magazine*, 2005 – present
- Texas Super Lawyers, *Law & Politics Magazine* and *Texas Monthly*, 2004 – present
 - Top 100, 2006
 - Top DFW, 2006
- Texas Rising Star, *Law & Politics Magazine* and *Texas Monthly*, 2004
- Best Lawyers Under 40 in Dallas, *D Magazine*, 2002, 2004
- Prince Henry Navigator Award for Service to the Community, 2010

PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- American Bar Association
- Dallas Assembly
- Dallas Bar Association
- Dallas Citizen's Council
- Former Barrister, Patrick E. Higginbotham Inn of Court
- Board Member and Former President, Vogel Alcove, day care facility for homeless families
- Former Board Member, St. Mark's School of Texas
- Founder, Past Chair, and Current Board member, Dallas Urban Debate Alliance
- Former member of Board of Directors, Temple Emanu-El
- Former member of Board of Directors, Children's Eye Foundation
- Chair of Dallas Bar Association Justice Baker Scholarship Committee

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Craig has presented to audiences around the world, including in over a dozen countries on topics including but not limited to:

- Herbstveranstaltung 2021 - Legal Operations, Vereinigung Schweizerischer Unternehmensjuristen (VSUJ), 24 November 2021
- US Trade Policy and its impact on companies investing in the US
- US Litigation risk for companies investing in the US
- “Finding Your Why” in a changing world for attorneys
- Business Development skills for attorneys
- Craig has also moderated over 100 panels around the world with leading General Counsels and other executives, including moderating the plenary panel 2 years in a row at the Association for Corporate Counsel (ACC) Europe's Annual meeting.
- Speaker and panelist on “Separating Fact from Fiction in Lateral Partner Recruiting” at The National Association for Law Placement Annual Education Conference
- Speaker and panelist on “Strategies for Effective Lateral Integration” at the Legal Management Resources Law Firm General Counsel Roundtable for Large Firms
- Speaker on career resources at Dallas Bar Association's Relaunch! Career Workshop
- “Strategies to Minimize Economic Risk in High Stakes Litigation,” panel member at the Texas General Counsel Forum Quarterly Event
- Speaker on international arbitration at Center for International Legal Studies (CILS), Steamboat Springs, Colorado
- Speaker on bankruptcy litigation, University of Texas Advanced Bankruptcy Litigation workshop
- National Conference on Fraud for the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Bankruptcy Litigation
- Lecturer at Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law on Law Firm Economics and Client Development
- Frequent Lecturer at leading U.S. law schools on law firm economics and business development practices for young lawyers

EDUCATION

- J.D., The University of Texas School of Law, 1990 (*Articles Editor, Texas Law Review*)
- A.B., Dartmouth College, 1987 (*Sigard Larmon Scholar*)

ADMISSIONS

- Bar of Texas
- Supreme Court of the United States

- United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit
- United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas
- United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas
- United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas
- United States District Court for the Western District of Texas

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP POWERED BY HUB

- 26 February 2026, The Playbook: Conversations With Craig Budner Featuring Deborah B. Farone, Consultant and Legal Industry Strategist and Author
- 25 February 2026, The Playbook with Deborah B. Farone
- 28 October 2025, The Playbook: Conversations With Craig Budner Featuring Alok Sama, Best-Selling Author and Former Senior Finance Executive
- 28 October 2025, The Playbook with Alok Sama
- 9 September 2025, Client Conversations With Craig Budner: Interview With Sheila Murphy, Certified Executive Coach, Business Development Strategist, and Author
- 9 September 2025, Client Conversations with Sheila Murphy
- 13 August 2025, Client Conversations With Craig Budner: Interview With Patrick Krill, Lawyer, Addiction Counselor, and Researcher
- 13 August 2025, Client Conversations with Patrick Krill
- 10 December 2024, Client Conversations with Neil Smith
- 9 December 2024, Client Conversations With Craig Budner: Interview With Neil Smith, Former General Manager of the New York Rangers and NHL On-Air Analyst
- 22 October 2024, Client Conversations With Craig Budner: Interview With Alvin Hall, Television and Radio Broadcaster, Bestselling Author, Podcaster, and Financial Educator
- 22 October 2024, Client Conversations with Alvin Hall
- 24 September 2024, Client Conversations With Craig Budner: Interview With Alison Fragale, Research Psychologist, Professor, and Author

- 24 September 2024, Client Conversations with Alison Fragale
- 12 September 2024, Client Conversations with Bill Neal
- 11 September 2024, Client Conversations With Craig Budner: Interview With Bill Neal, Writer, Producer, and Director
- 22 August 2024, Client Conversations With Craig Budner: Interview With Harold Kaufman, Senior Media Relations and Communications Professional
- 21 August 2024, Client Conversations with Harold Kaufman
- 20 June 2024, Client Conversations With Craig Budner: Interview With Jae Broderick, Writer and Motivational Speaker
- 20 June 2024, Client Conversations with Jae Broderick
- 5 January 2024, Client Conversations with Talmage Boston
- 4 January 2024, Client Conversations With Craig Budner: Interview With Talmage Boston, Commercial Litigator, Bar Leader, Historian, and Keynote Speaker
- 8 December 2023, Client Conversations with Casey Kaplan
- 7 December 2023, Interview With Casey Kaplan, Head of Global Compliance at Nike
- 22 September 2023, Interview With Bernard Hiller, Hollywood Acting Coach, Business Trainer, and Life Coach
- September 2023, Client Conversations with Bernard Hiller
- 9 May 2023, Interview With Mark Koulogeorge, Managing General Partner of MK Capital
- May 2023, Client Conversations with Mark Koulogeorge
- 5 January 2023, Client Conversations: Interview With Tina Parker, American Actor and Director, and Co-Artistic Director and Company Manager at Kitchen Dog Theater
- January 2023, Client Conversations with Tina Parker
- 8 November 2022, Client Conversations with Lacey Bundy
- 11 November 2022, Client Conversations: Interview With Lacey Bundy, SVP, Chief Legal Officer, and Corporate Secretary at PetSmart
- 18 October 2022, Client Conversations: Interview With Erin Millender-Rubin, VP of Legal at Hyperscience
- 18 October 2022, Client Conversations with Erin Millender-Rubin
- 28 September 2022, Client Conversations with Dr. Julie Bell

- 4 October 2022, Client Conversations: Interview With Dr. Julie Bell, Founder and President of The Mind of a Champion
- 8 September 2022, Client Conversations: Interview With Rudy Rodriguez, Executive Vice President, Chief Legal and Human Resources Officer, and Corporate Secretary for CEC Entertainment
- 12 August 2022, Client Conversations with Ken Hersh
- 12 August 2022, Client Conversations with Maria Varsellona
- 12 August 2022, Client Conversations with Dean Song Richardson
- 12 August 2022, Client Conversations with Brett Walter
- 24 June 2022, Client Conversations: Interview With Libby Duane Adams, Co-Founder of Alteryx
- 22 June 2022, Client Conversations with Libby Duane Adams
- May 2022, May 2022 Accolades
- 24 March 2022, Client Conversations: Interview With Josh Glessing, Vice President of Strategy at Haslam Sports Group (HSG)
- 24 March 2022, Client Conversations with Josh Glessing
- 8 February 2022, Client Conversations: Interview With Anthony Giglio, Client, New York-Based Sommelier, Journalist, and Author
- 7 February 2022, Client Conversations with Anthony Giglio
- January 2022, January 2022 Accolades
- 16 December 2021, Client Conversations with Jamal Stockton
- 13 December 2021, Client Conversations: Interview With Jamal Stockton, SVP and Head of Customer Inclusion at Fidelity Investments
- 15 October 2021, Client Conversations with Mo Bunnell
- 12 October 2021, Client Conversations: Interview With Mo Bunnell, CEO, and Founder of the Bunnell Idea Group
- 13 August 2021, Client Conversations: Interview With Ron Jordan, Chairman and Founder of Carter-White & Shaw LLC/Diverse Attorneys of Color and Lobbyist Recruiters
- 13 August 2021, Client Conversations with Ron Jordan
- 8 July 2021, Client Conversations: Interview With Mike Haven, Head of Legal Operations at Intel and President of CLOC
- 8 July 2021, Client Conversations with Mike Haven

- May 2021, May 2021 Accolades
- 14 May 2021, Client Conversations with Cami Richardson
- 7 April 2021, Client Conversations with Rich Stoddart
- 27 January 2021, Client Conversations with Michael Hoffman
- 16 December 2020, Client Conversations with Audrey Andrews
- 15 December 2020, Client Conversations: Interview With Audrey Andrews, Executive Vice President and General Counsel at Tenet Healthcare
- 9 November 2020, Client Conversations: Interview With Abhijit Mukhopadhyay, President (Legal) and Company Secretary at the Hinduja Group
- 5 October 2020, Client Conversations: Interview With Matthew J. Maletta, Executive Vice President and Chief Legal Officer of Endo Pharmaceuticals
- 14 September 2020, Client Conversations with Matt Maletta
- 9 September 2020, Client Conversations: Interview With Thomas Smith, Direct Energy's General Counsel and Executive Vice President, North America
- 1 September 2020, Client Conversations with Thomas Smith
- 20 August 2020, Client Conversations: Interview With Bill Farrell, Managing Director and General Counsel at Longford Capital
- 9 July 2020, Client Conversations: Interview With L. Song Richardson, Dean and Chancellor's Professor of Law at the University of California, Irvine School of Law
- 25 June 2020, Client Conversations: Interview With Dr. Heidi Gardner, Harvard Law School Distinguished Fellow, Center on the Legal Profession
- 24 June 2020, Client Conversations with Bill Farrell
- 16 June 2020, Client Conversations with Dr. Heidi Gardner
- 11 June 2020, Client Conversations: Interview With Maria Varsellona General Counsel & Company Secretary Member of the Group Executive Committee of ABB Ltd, Switzerland
- 28 May 2020, Client Conversations: Interview With Ken Hersh, Co-Founder and Former CEO of NGP Energy Capital Management and President and CEO of the George W. Bush Presidential Center
- 20 May 2020, Client Conversations: Interview With Rich Nichols, Sports Crisis Management Advisor and Former Olympic Contender
- 19 May 2020, Client Conversations with Rich Nichols
- 11 May 2020, Client Conversations: Interview With A. H. Algozaibi & Bros. General Counsel Brett Walter

- 7 April 2020, Client Conversations: Interview With Mo Bunnell, CEO and Founder of Bunnell Idea Group
- 22 January 2020, Client Conversations: Interview With Hans Albers, Chief of Staff at Juniper Networks & President of ACC Europe
- 4 September 2019, Client Conversations: Interview With Megaport General Counsel Anna Tichborne
- 23 April 2019, Client Conversations: Interview With Tyler Technologies CEO Lynn Moore

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- "[Ten Tips for Junior Lawyers](#)," *The Law Society Gazette*, 3 October 2016
- "Four Partners Listed Among "Best of the U.S.," July 24, 2006
- "The Exclusionary Rule's Application in Tax Proceedings: Reconciling the Rule's Purpose for Tax Defendants," Note, *Texas Law Review*, March 1990

NEWS & EVENTS

- 18 August 2022, More Than 350 K&L Gates Lawyers Named Among 2023 Best Lawyers in America, Ones to Watch
- 22 May 2022, Association of Corporate Counsel Europe Annual Conference, Hosted by Association of Corporate Counsel
- 29 September 2021, LSSO Partner Integration Webinar
- 13 September 2021, K&L Gates Releases ESG and the Sustainable Economy Handbook
- 1 September 2021, K&L Gates Advises Megaport (USA) Inc. in Acquisition of InnovoEdge Inc.
- 18-20 August 2021, 28th Annual Marketing Partner Forum, hosted by Thomson Reuters
- 19 August 2021, Nearly 300 K&L Gates Lawyers Named Among 2022 Best Lawyers in America, Ones to Watch
- 3 February 2021, K&L Gates Launches Nashville Office With Hire of 25+ Lawyers
- 31 January 2017, K&L Gates Mourns Longtime Partner and Friend Vester Hughes
- 13 June 2016, K&L Gates Helps Pave Clearer Path to Equity Partnership by Launching Innovative, Multifaceted Partner Progression Program

OTHER MEDIA MENTIONS

- "[ANALYSIS: Loneliness in Law—A Look at Associates' Isolation Data](#)," *Bloomberg Law*, 8 September 2025
- "[Improving Lateral Integration](#)," *Association of Legal Administrators*, 12 December 2024

- ["We Have That Equal Responsibility': One Am Law 50 Firm's Approach to Lateral Integration,"](#) *The American Lawyer*, 28 October 2024
- ["Can K&L Gates Quadruple Its Revenue Again?"](#) *Law360*, 4 September 2024
- "ACC Europe: the Madrid conference is underway," *InHouseCommunity.it (Italy)* and *IberianLawyer.com*, 23 May 2022

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Commercial Disputes
- Construction and Infrastructure Dispute Resolution
- Financial Institutions and Services Litigation
- International Arbitration
- Maritime Disputes
- Restructuring and Insolvency

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Representation of Xerox/ACS in a variety of outsourcing litigation disputes
- Representation of Tyler Technologies in breach of contract and fraud litigation against ACS over an \$80 million acquisition; further representation of Tyler Technologies in a variety of business fraud litigation
- Counsel to Hewlett-Packard/EDS in a variety of outsourcing litigation matters
- Representation of Litigation Trustee in ATM Online in sale of assets and pursuit of claims against third parties
- Representation of JP Morgan Chase, N.A. in a variety of litigation matters, including business fraud litigation arising from the syndication of a \$500 million dollar loan
- Counsel to VarTec Telecom in a variety of litigation and bankruptcy matters, including litigation against Bell Canada parent BCE in connection with VarTec's acquisition of Excel from BCE, arbitration and bankruptcy litigation with Teleglobe Telecom Corporation, and numerous arbitration and litigation matters related to VarTec's multi-level marketing subsidiary Excel
- Representation of Jewel Recovery, L.P., the litigation trust for the bankruptcy estate of Zale and Gordon Jewelry Co., culminating in the successful prosecution of one of the largest fraudulent transfer actions in U.S. history
- Counsel to Official Physicians' Committee of medical practices affiliated with Physicians Resource Group, Inc. (prior to PRG's Chapter 11 filing)

- Representation of MCorp Management in bankruptcy litigation against the FDIC regarding the FDIC and OCC takeover of the Mbanks
- Representation of a large land developer and a private individual in bankruptcy litigation arising out of the Nelson Bunker Hunt bankruptcy
- Representation of Fleet Credit Corporation as a secured lender in various bankruptcy litigation and reorganization matters
- Representation of NorthPark National Bank (now Comerica) in lender liability litigation and bankruptcy litigation
- Representation of Gold Metal Recyclers, Inc. in commercial litigation regarding U.C.C. security issues
- Representation of DII Industries Asbestos PI Trust, a \$2.6 billion trust funded by Halliburton, one of the largest asbestos trusts ever created