



Cindy Ohlenforst

Senior Of Counsel

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OVERVIEW

Cindy Ohlenforst, who received the 2018 Outstanding Texas Tax Lawyer award from the Tax Section of the State Bar of Texas, has a broad tax practice that involves planning and controversy work around the country. She has extensive experience with state and local taxes, with tax controversy matters, including litigation and administrative proceedings, and with legislative work.

Cindy frequently works with the energy, technology, broadcasting, transportation, and airline industries, and in addition to her legislative projects in other states, has worked with legislators on drafting multiple provisions of the Texas Tax Code. In addition to chairing the firmwide Women in the Profession Committee, Cindy serves on the firmwide Diversity Committee.

Cindy's practice focuses on the following areas:

- Multistate and federal tax issues, including income tax, sales tax, franchise tax, property tax, hotel tax, and other taxes
- Controversy and litigation, including work defending against putative class actions by taxing jurisdictions
- Tax-related legislative and policy projects, including working on draft legislation and testifying before legislative committees
- Transactions, including contract negotiations, financings, and reorganizations

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Recognized by *The Best Lawyers in America*® for Tax Law in Dallas, TX, 2005-2026
- Recognized by *Chambers USA* in Texas
 - Tax: Litigation, 2013-2025
 - Tax: State & Local, 2024-2025
- Recognized by *The Legal 500 United States* as a Recommended Lawyer for US taxes: non-contentious, 2024

- Elected Member, American College of Tax Counsel
- [*Outstanding Texas Tax Lawyer*](#), 2018
- Named to *The Best Lawyers in America*® Tax "Lawyer of the Year" in Dallas/Fort Worth, 2017
- Recognized in Best Lawyers® Women in the Law publication, 2016-2017
- Texas Super Lawyer, *Law & Politics Magazine* and *Texas Monthly*, 2003-2016
- Best Lawyers® in Dallas, Tax, *D Magazine*, 2009-2017
- Named to the Super Lawyers Top 50 Women list in Texas, 2009
- *Dallas 500* (Top 500 Business Leaders), *D Magazine's* Inaugural List, 2015
- Outstanding Graduate, University of Dallas

PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- American Bar Association
- State Bar of Texas
 - Tax Section and State Tax Committee
 - Past Chair, Tax Section
 - Past Chair, State Tax Committee
 - Past Chair, Committee on Women in the Profession
- Dallas Bar Association
 - Past Chair, Tax Section
- Texas Bar Foundation
- Participation on advisory committees for multiple Texas Comptrollers of Public Accounts
- Executive Women's Roundtable Member
- United Way of Dallas, Advocacy Committee
- Board of Trustees of Ursuline Academy of Dallas and work with multiple other nonprofit boards (including past board positions with The Housing Crisis Center, The Family Place, and Attitudes & Attire).
- Leadership Texas Association Alumnae

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

A frequent speaker, Cindy has spoken at the annual meeting for COST (Council on State Taxation), at ABA meetings, at State Bar Advanced Tax programs, at Texas Society of CPAs meetings, and at multiple other CLE and industry meetings.

EDUCATION

- J.D., Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law, 1980 (*magna cum laude*; *Graduated first in class*; *Leading Articles Editor, Southwestern Law Journal*)
- M.A., University of Dallas
- B.A., Loyola University New Orleans, (*magna cum laude*)

ADMISSIONS

- Bar of Texas
- Supreme Court of the United States
- United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit
- United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas
- United States District Court for the Western District of Arkansas
- United States District Court for the Western District of Texas

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP POWERED BY HUB

- 9 June 2025, Recent Changes to Washington State Tax Laws Will Increase Taxes for Many Taxpayers
- 7 May 2024, May 2024 Accolades
- 8 March 2023, International Women's Day 2023
- July 2022, New Risks of the Evolving Workforce – Tax Compliance Issues
- May 2022, May 2022 Accolades
- 28 March 2022, Sirius XM Radio, Inc. v. Hegar: Texas Supreme Court Rejects Comptroller Franchise Tax Apportionment Interpretation
- May 2021, May 2021 Accolades
- 10 March 2021, New Hampshire v. Massachusetts: Potential for Remote Working Tax Uniformity

- 2 October 2020, COVID-19: State Tax Implications of Remote Working Arrangements
- 13 August 2020, COVID-19: State Conformity to CARES Act Tax Relief: An Introductory Q&A
- 16 March 2020, COVID-19: Likely Impacts on U.S. State and Local Tax
- 27 June 2018, Wayfair Paves the Way to Change - and Confusion
- 10 January 2018, *Graphic Packaging Corporation v. Hegar*: Texas' Single-Factor Franchise Tax Apportionment Remains Mandatory
- 9 January 2018, Texas Comptroller Announces Tax Amnesty Program From May 1, 2018 Through June 29, 2018
- 2 March 2017, *Valero Refining-Texas, L.P. v. Galveston Central Appraisal District*: A Strategic Opportunity?

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- Author of *Best Lawyers* Article - Remote Controls “How law firms, lawyers and taxing authorities must adapt to remote work” Spring Business Edition 2022
- Co-Author of the annual survey of Texas tax law for the *SMU Law Review* (formerly *Southwestern Law Journal*) since 1988 - 2017

NEWS & EVENTS

- 5 June 2025, K&L Gates Receives More Than 240 Firm, Individual Rankings in 2025 *Chambers USA* Guide
- 6 June 2024, K&L Gates Receives More Than 200 Firm, Individual Rankings in 2024 *Chambers USA* Guide
- 29 June 2023, K&L Gates Earns Gold Standard Certification From Women in Law Empowerment Forum for Eleventh Year
- 1 June 2023, K&L Gates Receives Firm, Individual Rankings in 2023 *Chambers USA* Guide
- 2 March 2023, K&L Gates Embraces Equity With International Women's Day Celebrations
- 18 October 2022, K&L Gates Earns Mansfield Rule 5.0 Certification Plus Status
- 18 August 2022, More Than 350 K&L Gates Lawyers Named Among 2023 Best Lawyers in America, Ones to Watch
- 26 July 2022, K&L Gates Receives Tenth Gold Standard Certification From Women in Law Empowerment Forum
- 1 June 2022, K&L Gates Receives Firm, Individual Rankings in 2022 *Chambers USA* Guide
- 7 March 2022, K&L Gates Celebrates 2022 International Women's Day

- 19 August 2021, Nearly 300 K&L Gates Lawyers Named Among 2022 Best Lawyers in America, Ones to Watch
- 24 May 2021, Chambers USA 2021 Guide Recognizes K&L Gates Corporate Practice, Lawyers Among Leaders
- 11 November 2020, K&L Gates, Ms. JD Launch Virtual *Pathway to Success* Business Training Program for Firm's Women and Diverse Associates
- 10 July 2020, K&L Gates Receives Ninth WILEF U.S. Gold Standard Certification
- 23 April 2020, K&L Gates, Lawyers Recognized in 2020 Chambers USA Guide
- 9 March 2020, K&L Gates Celebrates International Women's Day 2020 with Events Around the Globe and Sponsoring Pledges for Diversity and Inclusion
- 26 April 2019, Chambers USA 2019 Guide Ranks K&L Gates, Lawyers Among Leaders
- 23 June 2016, K&L Gates, Lawyers Recognized as Leaders in Chambers USA 2016 Guide
- 20 May 2015, Chambers USA 2015 Guide Recognizes K&L Gates, Lawyers as Industry Leaders

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Tax
- Appellate Litigation
- Corporate and Acquisition Finance
- Maritime
- Oil and Gas
- Opportunity Zones (OZs)
- Power
- Public Policy and Law
- Real Estate Finance

INDUSTRIES

- Aviation
- Transportation and Logistics