



Robine K. Morrison

Partner

Houston
+1 713-651-2609

Chicago
+1 312-558-8291

Robine focuses her practice on high-stakes contract, trade secrets, securities, False Claims Act, product liability, defamation, and tortious interference matters. She has a breadth of hands-on experience in a wide variety of complex commercial litigation matters. Robine has been a member of nine trial teams, conducted over ten direct and cross examinations at trial, successfully written and argued pretrial and critical motions, and conducted over seventy-five depositions.

Robine has experience defending and litigating complex cases in federal and state courts and arbitral tribunals from case inception, through discovery, summary judgment, trial, and appeal. Her practice has involved a broad range of complex commercial litigation matters, including high stakes contract, defamation, tortious interference, product liability, Title VI, Lanham Act, unfair competition, trade secrets, False Claims Act, noncompete, antitrust, and securities fraud claims. Robine represents clients in matters involving a wide range of complex technologies and issues—with an emphasis on energy (oil & gas and renewable energy), pharmaceuticals and medical devices, and food and agriculture processes. Robine’s representation spans a variety of market sectors, including energy (oil & gas and

renewable energy); banking and securities; pharmaceuticals and medical devices; food, beverage and agriculture; defense; and recycling industries.

She is experienced in all phases of litigation and trial, including case assessment and strategy development; drafting winning evidentiary and dispositive motions; successfully arguing critical motions, including motions to dismiss and oppositions to summary judgment; managing all aspects of discovery; taking and defending seventy-five depositions; negotiating mediations and settlements; successfully arguing motions *in limine* and *Daubert* motions; handling all aspects of trial preparation and trial, including witness preparation, pre-trial submissions, trial, ten examinations (including direct, adverse direct, and cross examinations), and post-trial briefing; and handling appeals in state and federal courts.

Key Matters

- In a case touted as the “largest” and “one of the most significant” defamation cases in U.S. history and seeking more than US\$1.9B in actual damages from ABC for the publication of more than 200 alleged false statements about the client’s product during a month-long period in 2012, Robine served as an integral member of the litigation team from 2012, prior to filing the complaint, through 2017, when the team secured a favorable settlement in the middle of an eight-week jury trial. During this time, the litigation team conducted over 100 fact depositions across the country, over 30 expert depositions, and briefed close to 100 motions. The team won every significant motion—a motion to keep the case in state court, multiple motions to dismiss, two appeals to the South Dakota Supreme Court, and multiple motions for summary judgment. The representation was also referenced by Law360 in naming Winston & Strawn Food & Beverage Group of the Year in 2015.
- After four years of litigation, Robine served as an integral member of the small litigation team which obtained a jury verdict of more than US\$93M in favor of AbbVie, Inc. in a contract dispute over a pricing agreement relating to pharmaceuticals for infants, a verdict that at the time was the largest commercial verdict awarded in the venue.
- Successfully led the development and execution of strategy for a key dispositive motion that aided in obtaining a full judgment win in favor of the client in a False Claims Act case. For the first time in the Fifth Circuit, the judge held that a court lacks jurisdiction to determine whether a federal defense contractor retaliated against its employee, where doing so would require second-guessing a security determination by the Executive Branch.
- In a putative securities fraud class action in the Northern District of California. Robine defended Cisco Systems, Inc. against a sprawling 123-page complaint attacking nearly every aspect of Cisco’s business and alleging the defendants made more than 100 false statements. The court dismissed the complaint notwithstanding its breadth after adopting nearly all of our arguments. Plaintiffs subsequently agreed to voluntarily dismiss with prejudice.
- Successfully secured a critical injunction in a complex contract dispute for a renewable energy provider.
- Represented a communications provider focusing in the oil & gas sector in an arbitration and litigation involving the violation of various restrictive covenants by the Company’s former CEO.
- Assisted in defending Verizon Wireless in *in re Messaging Antitrust Litigation*, which consolidated more than 35 putative class actions filed in federal courts throughout the country in the Northern District of Illinois.
- Successfully secured dismissals of products liability and negligence litigation against Medtronic, Inc.
- Successfully secured settlement in significant False Claims Act litigation against a physician practice.
- Successfully defended national bank against claims under the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (RESPA), Truth in Lending Act (TILA), Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA), Fair Debt Collections Practices Act (FDCPA), state Unfair and Deceptive Trade Practices Act (UDTPA), and for Breach of Contract, Fraud, and Negligence.

Recent Experience

Recognitions

- Named on *Benchmark Litigation US's* "40 & Under List" for Dispute Resolution (2024)
 - Recognized by *Best Lawyers®: Ones to Watch in America* in the areas of Litigation-Securities, Oil and Gas Law, and Product Liability Litigation- Defendants (2022–2023), and Commercial Litigation (2021–2023)
 - Listed as one of *Lawdragon's* "500 Leading Energy Lawyers" for Energy Litigation (2023–2024)
 - Winston & Strawn was named the "Chicago Litigation Department of the Year" for General Litigation by *The National Law Journal* (2015)
 - Winston & Strawn was named "Food & Beverage Group of the Year" by Law360 (2015)
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Activities

Robine is the Houston Office Chair to the Firm's Women's Leadership Initiative, and is a member of the *Pro Bono* Committee.

Having started her career in the firm's Chicago office, Robine has been involved in both the Houston and Chicago communities. She is currently Secretary and Board Member for the Texas Medical Center Orchestra in Houston, Board Member and Events Committee Co-Chair for the University of Illinois College of Law Alumni, and volunteers with Horizons for Youth, an organization that provides scholarship, mentoring and tutoring to children from low-resource areas of Chicago. Robine also supports Girls on the Run Greater Houston and served on the planning committee for its 2019 Sneaker Soiree fundraising gala. Prior to moving to Houston, Robine also served on the Young Professionals Board for Horizons for Youth. Robine served on the planning committee for the 7th Circuit Bar Association's 2014 Annual Meeting.

Robine is also the JIOP Houston Regional Co-Chair for the American Bar Association.

PRO BONO & PUBLIC INTEREST WORK

Following graduation from law school, Robine served as a public interest fellow with Tahirih Justice Center where she assisted immigrant women and children fleeing violence.

Robine frequently represents, counsels, and advises pro bono clients with a wide variety of legal issues, including:

- Secured the award of child custody following an eight-day bench trial, participating in two trials on the client's behalf and negotiating and resolving multiple custody and child support issues on behalf of the client over a period of five years.
- Successfully obtained asylum for an immigrant from Zimbabwe and Eritrea.
- Successfully obtained administrative relief for a disabled client seeking home services.
- Represented multiple clients in habeas appeals before the Seventh Circuit.
- Prepared wills and directives.
- Represented a client in seeking social security disability benefits.
- Represented a client seeking clemency for charges relating to domestic violence and sexual abuse.
- Represented a survivor of human trafficking.

Credentials

EDUCATION

Robine received a J.D., *magna cum laude*, in 2011 from the University of Illinois, where she was elected to the Order of the Coif, a member of Phi Kappa Phi, and an articles editor for the *University of Illinois Law Review*. She received a B.A. in Plan II Honors, *cum laude*, and a minor in business foundations, with distinction, from the University of Texas at Austin in 2007.

ADMISSIONS

- Texas
- Illinois

Related Insights & News

Robine is an editor of the Thomson Reuters *Employee Noncompetition Law* treatise, which is an annual publication that covers statutory and common-law rules, major issues, and practical considerations of employee restrictive agreements, including those related to intellectual property.

Robine assisted in authoring the *Interplay Between Civil and Criminal Proceedings in Successful Partnering Between Inside and Outside Counsel*, a treatise by Thomson Reuters and the Association of Corporate Counsel containing a discussion of issues facing inside and outside counsel when working together and providing practical ideas to prevent or resolve problems.

Robine presented “Deconstructing Microaggressions: A Macro Solution to a Not So Micro Problem” in July 2021, and she presented at “Ready to Rise,” a one-day academy in law and leadership for middle school girls, in Houston during Summer 2018. She also moderated a panel of federal judges for new attorneys at the Seventh Circuit Bar Association Annual Meeting in 2014.

She authored “[SMART Communications: Moving Forward when Stuck at Home](#),” for the American Bar Association, published on August 14, 2020.

RECOGNITIONS

Winston Partners Named to *Benchmark Litigation's* 2024 40 & Under List

AUGUST 8, 2024

RECOGNITIONS

Robine Morrison Grant Named to the *Houston Business Journal's* 2024 40 Under 40 List

JULY 10, 2024

RECOGNITIONS

Winston Attorneys Featured on the 2024 *Lawdragon* 500 Leading Energy Lawyers List

FEBRUARY 16, 2024

RECOGNITIONS

Three Winston Teams Featured in Litigator of the Week Column

SEPTEMBER 29, 2023

NEWS

2022 Pro Bono Impact Report

MAY 1, 2023

CLIENT SUCCESS

Winston Acts as Lead Trial Counsel for Fox News and Fox Corp. in US Dominion Voting Systems Defamation Cases, Settling Matter on Brink of Trial

APRIL 18, 2023

RECOGNITIONS

Winston Attorneys Recognized in Inaugural Edition of the *Lawdragon* 500 U.S. Leading Energy Lawyers

MARCH 17, 2023

RECOGNITIONS

Winston & Strawn Attorneys Recognized in *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch in America* 2023

AUGUST 18, 2022

NEWS

2020-2021 Pro Bono Impact Report

2020-2021

RECOGNITIONS

Winston & Strawn Attorneys Recognized in *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch in America* 2022

AUGUST 19, 2021

RECOGNITIONS

Winston Women Recognized in the 2021 Women in the Law edition of *Best Lawyers*

JULY 1, 2021

RECOGNITIONS

Winston & Strawn Attorneys Recognized in *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch* 2021

AUGUST 20, 2020

Capabilities

Litigation/Trials

Commercial Litigation & Disputes

Product Liability & Mass Torts

Securities, M&A & Corporate Governance Litigation

Government Investigations, Enforcement & Compliance

Insurance Litigation

Energy

Oil & Gas

Technology, Media & Telecommunications

Financial Services

Medical Devices