



Practice Areas

Litigation

Education

South Texas College of Law, J.D.,
magna cum laude, 2005

South Texas Law Review, Note
and Comment Editor, 2004-2005

Texas A&M University, B.S., 1999

Paul B. Kerlin

Associate | Houston Office

Houston 713.588.7004 | **Fax** 713.588.7054

Email pbkerlin@vorys.com

Mr. Kerlin is an attorney in the litigation group of the Vorys Houston office. His practice focuses on mass tort and commercial litigation, particularly matters involving claims for mesothelioma, asbestosis, and benzene and other chemical exposures in state and federal court. Mr. Kerlin has additional experience representing vessel owners and underwriters in a variety of maritime and admiralty disputes, vessel seizures and insurance matters. He has also represented individuals, construction contractors and engineers in commercial disputes and personal injury matters.

Mr. Kerlin has significant appellate experience and has presented oral arguments and filed briefs for clients in intermediate Texas Courts of Appeal, the Supreme Court of Texas, and the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Career highlights include:

- Lead associate and trial counsel for Fortune 200 chemical company in a multitude of personal injury lawsuits pending in state and federal multidistrict litigation courts in which product, premises, and employer claims for exposure to asbestos are asserted. Mr. Kerlin has successfully resolved, for less than one percent of the settlement demands, hundreds of cases in which plaintiffs' aggregate demands exceeded \$100 million.
- Lead counsel for bauxite refinery in claim for damages that resulted from an allision with a foreign-flagged vessel. Negotiated letter of undertaking in lieu of vessel arrest and recovered during mediation over 95 percent of damages client had sustained with minimal litigation expense.

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- Lead associate and primary attorney handling defense of construction contractor in Dallas County for claims that plaintiff's multiple back surgeries, including 360 degree spinal fusion and intrathecal morphine pump, were necessary and were caused by a traumatic injury at worksite. Plaintiff demanded \$3.4 million to settle his claims and the case was successfully resolved two weeks before trial for a confidential sum of less than ten percent of plaintiff's original demand.
- Lead associate and primary attorney handling hundreds of claims for indemnity in product liability personal injury lawsuits filed in Arkansas for Canadian rubber manufacturer. Successfully obtained dismissal for client based on lack of personal jurisdiction.
- Trial and appellate counsel for major chemical company that prevailed on summary judgment based on limitations for case in which plaintiff asserted lung cancer claims. Plaintiff's appeal based on the trial court's application and scope of the discovery rule currently pending in the Houston Court of Appeals. *Charles Joseph Hyman, et al. v. A.W. Chesterton, et al.* No. 01-07-00700.
- Trial and appellate counsel defending petrochemical process engineering firm in a lawsuit filed in Harris County and appealed to the Houston Court of Appeals in which the appellate court reversed and rendered a take-nothing judgment in favor of client on the application and scope of the certificate of merit statute for design professionals. *UOP L.L.C. v. Kozak*, 2010 WL 2026037 (Tex. App.—Hous. [1st Dist.] May 20, 2010, no pet.)

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- Trial and appellate counsel defending a Fortune 500 retailer in a lawsuit in Bexar County and in the San Antonio Court of Appeals in which a 10-year-old default judgment in excess of \$3.5 million has been challenged by bill of review. *PNS Stores Inc. v. Rivera*, 335 S.W.3d 265 (Tex. App.—San Antonio, 2010, pet. granted Sept. 30, 2011) Oral arguments in the Supreme Court of Texas (No.10-1028) set for Jan. 11, 2012. Also represented client in parallel federal appeal which involved same claimant that was decided by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. *Rachel Rivera v. PNS Stores, Inc.*; No. 10-50328 (op. issued July 15, 2011) (holding dismissals under Rule 56 are “with prejudice to refile”). Petition for Certiorari pending.

Mr. Kerlin is a member of the American Bar Association, the Texas Bar Association the Houston Bar Association, and the Houston Young Lawyers Association. He is admitted to practice in all state and federal courts in Texas.

Professional and Community Activities

Houston Young Lawyers Association, Member, 2005 – present

Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, Committee Member for the World’s Championship Bar-B-Que Contest, Beverage Stands Sub-Committee, 2010 - present.

Bar and Court Admissions

Arkansas

Texas

U.S. Supreme Court

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit

U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas

U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas

U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas