

## Christie A. Newkirk

PARTNER

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**When difficult issues arise, I'm very good at staying calm, helping clients feel better about whatever they're dealing with, and crafting a well-thought-out response. I candidly talk them through all their options, and, once we've chosen a palatable plan of action, we execute it as a team.**

With a Texas-based practice focused on management-side employment law, Christie Newkirk advises employers and finds practical solutions to the variety of human resources matters they face. Clients regard Christie as a true advisor and rely on her in navigating COVID-19 laws and workplace issues, planning and implementing reductions in force, managing employee and executive performance issues, making high-risk employment decisions, and drafting confidentiality, noncompetition, and executive employment agreements.

Always bringing honesty and excellent people skills to her work, Christie deeply values the long-term client relationships she's built over two decades. When workplace problems surface, she fully understands the spectrum of considerations at stake. These include business goals and legal risks, but also real-world concerns such as an organization's unique work environment. She assists companies in evaluating each of these factors and weighing them against one another. Adept at finding creative paths, Christie ensures all solutions are tailored to her clients' unique needs.

Christie provides comprehensive workplace conduct training to help employers prevent discrimination, harassment, and other problematic behaviors. She also offers performance management training that guides clients in disciplining and firing employees and effectively documenting these processes. Christie's keen insight enables her to identify not only clients' obvious, stated problems, but also the troubles that often simmer underneath them.

Companies call upon Christie to conduct confidential, and often privileged, investigations of alleged executive misconduct and report her findings to their boards of directors or outside counsel. In this role, she serves as an objective factfinder, providing all relevant information through a prompt and efficient inquiry, which allows the client to better evaluate the appropriate response to a complaint better. In addition, she handles executive non-compete agreements, representing C-suite leaders in negotiating their entrances into or exits from a company.

An experienced litigator, Christie is willing to fight vigorously for those she represents. Although she first searches for other opportunities to resolve issues, she's a zealous advocate when the courtroom provides the best path forward. No matter the circumstances, Christie exhibits the highest level of professionalism and congeniality.

Christie frequently speaks on employment law topics, including giving the annual update for the Dallas Bar

Association's Employment Law Section.

## **OUTSIDE OF WORK**

When she's not serving clients, Christie enjoys playing tennis, cooking, reading, and spending time with family and friends.

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## **AREAS OF PRACTICE**

- Employment
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## **EDUCATION & ADMISSIONS**

### **Education**

- The University of Texas at Austin School of Law, J.D., 1995
- The University of Texas at Austin, B.S., *summa cum laude*, 1992

### **Bar + Court Admissions**

- Licensed in Texas
  - U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit
  - U.S. District Court, Eastern District, Texas
  - U.S. District Court, Northern District, Texas
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## **HONORS & AWARDS**

- Best Lawyers in Dallas, *D Magazine*, 2012, 2015-2020, 2023-2026
  - *The Best Lawyers in America*® (BL Rankings), Employment Law – Management, Labor Law – Management, Litigation – Labor and Employment, 2013-2026
  - Leading Corporate Employment Lawyers, *Lawdragon 500*, 2024-2025
  - Texas Super Lawyers, Employment & Labor, *Super Lawyers* by Thomson Reuters, 2005-2019, 2021-2026
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## **PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

- Fellow, College of Labor and Employment Law, 2024-2026
- Leadership Dallas, Dallas Regional Chamber, Class of 2024
- Member, Dallas Women Lawyers Association; CLE Co-Chair, 2017-2019; Membership Chair, 2020
- Member, Dallas Bar Association, Employment Law Section; Chair, 2004; Vice-Chair, 2003
- Member, State Bar of Texas, Employment Law Section
- Member, Attorneys Serving the Community; Chair, Networking Committee, 2013-2018
- Grants Committee, Dallas Women's Foundation, 2017

- Member, Las Colinas Country Club; Board of Governors, 2018-2020; Chair, Membership 2018-2019; Board Chair, 2020
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## **PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS**

- Speaker, Year in Review, Dallas Bar Association, Labor and Employment Law Section
- Speaker, Texas General Counsel Forum Virtual CLE Program, The Changing Landscape of Non-Competes
- Speaker, Ten Things Every Construction Lawyer Needs To Know About Employment Law
- Speaker, Damages In Employment Discrimination & Harassment Cases
- Speaker, Managing the Difficult Employee
- Speaker, Navigating the Post #MeToo Workplace
- Speaker, Performance Management: Trends, Compliance and Technology
- Speaker, Social Media in the Workplace
- Speaker, Trends in Employment: Pop Culture Crosses Into the Workplace
- Speaker, Controversy Surrounds EEOC's Pregnancy Discrimination Guidance
- Speaker, Reduction in Force Issues
- Speaker, Did You Know? Recent Trends in Employment Law
- Speaker, New Regulations, Recent Court Decision, and Vital Strategies for Managing Your Leave Law Challenges