

Managing the Storm

Managing the Storm

Our team of experienced legal professionals can help you evaluate, mitigate and resolve claims in an effective and efficient manner.

Early evaluation of risk is accomplished by our systematic approach to every case we handle. The Murphy Legal system ensures early analysis of all cases with the goal of being "trial ready" in approximately eight months.

For catastrophic loss cases, our 24-hour response team is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Early evaluation is like accurately forecasting a coming storm - so it can be managed effectively.

Mitigation must be well planned and proactive. Instead of running from the storm, we at Murphy Legal view ourselves more as storm chasers - seeking to engage in dispassionate analysis of an ominous threat and reduce it to a risk management decision.

Mitigation of risk requires formulating a clear and concise strategic plan early in the claims process. The old military adage of "two is one and one is none" is just as true in litigation - it takes a team. Collaboration in formulating a strategic plan is a team sport, and that plan is essential to accomplishing our client's desired outcome.

At Murphy Legal we host collaborative, online, strategic planning sessions on every case, and follow up with periodic "clarity checks" or "course correction" sessions to ensure we are on task and exceeding the client's expectations.

We prepare every case as if trial is inevitable. Ironically, this approach almost invariably leads to cases being resolved well before trial. But when trial is necessary, our trial team always heads to the courthouse fully prepared and armed with the consent of a fully informed client.

The combination of our experience and systematic and methodical approach to the litigation process, enables us to find calm in the eye of the storm. Our firm has routinely found successes in court rooms throughout the state of Texas and beyond in cases ranging from minor impact, soft tissue claims, claims involving surgical recommendation and/or intervention, to multimillion-dollar contract disputes and catastrophic loss claims involving international business transactions, brain injury, paralysis, burns, sexual assault, and death.

EMERGENCY HOTLINE

24 Hour Response

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Areas Of Practice

Murphy Legal Defends Individuals, institutional clients, and insurers from claims involving:

- Non-Subscriber Defense
- Transportation Defense
- Insurance Defense
- Construction Litigation
 - Mechanic's and Materialman's Liens
- Premises Liability
- Consumer & Business Litigation
- Contracts
- Commercial Litigation

Non- Subscriber Defense

Texas does not require employers to carry workers compensation insurance. Employers that make that decision are called "non-subscribers." Many times, Texas "non-subscriber" employers make this change as a cost saving mechanism compared to paying workers compensation insurance premiums.

When an employer becomes a non-subscriber employer, it is legally permissible for their injured employee to file a lawsuit. However, there are a myriad of tools that "non-subscriber" employers have at their disposal to prevent employee personal injury litigation. These include creating an ERISA based occupational injury benefit plan that pays for an injured employees' medical bills and lost wages. Other available tools are the use of arbitration agreements and the implementation of well documented employee safety training programs.

Transportation Defense

Murphy Legal handles transportation defense claims for wrongful death, catastrophic collisions, personal injury, premises liability, and business disputes. We advise clients on regulatory compliance and safety matters. Our experienced team works to gather facts, evaluate risk, and develop a strategy for the best possible defense. When clients engage our 24-hour emergency response hotline, we immediately initiate our comprehensive Catastrophic Loss protocol to secure the accident scene and preserve evidence.

Insurance Defense

If you are currently seeking to defend your company or an insured against insurance-related recovery, or simply desire to be proactive in seeking advice from a proficient and experienced team, Murphy Legal is prepared to be an asset to your business.

Construction Litigation

The construction industry is one of the ripest industries for legal matters. Owners, design professionals, and contractors are routinely faced with issues regarding delays in completion of the project, cost overruns, payment, mechanic's and materialman's liens, design and/or construction defects, and numerous other perceived or actual matters. In construction, having experienced counsel is not just beneficial, it is crucial to successful resolution of your claim. At Murphy Legal, our team of experienced attorneys and paralegals can help you with your constructed related questions and claims. We have successfully assisted both owners and contractors in assessing their issues, mitigating the disruption to their lives, and resolving the issues.

Premises Liability

Each and every business that owns or occupies property, has exposure to premises liability claims. Serious accidents may be the result of failure to adhere to safety requirements, environmental regulations, OSHA compliance, or even third-party negligence. Whatever the circumstances, Murphy Legal is well versed on the laws related to premises liability and is committed to ensuring our defense dictates the outcome of a case.

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Consumer & Business

Litigation

Today's business climate is a bundle of ever-changing rules and regulations. Our experienced legal team can help you make sense of the changing landscape and unexpected hurdles. Whether you are a one-man startup, a Fortune 50 company, a not-for-profit, an employee, or an independent contractor, we have the knowledge and experience to help you through your next unexpected development. We can help with creating your corporation, governing documents, a breach of contract, payment problems, wrongful termination, intellectual property dispute, non-disclosure and non-compete agreements. Our team has successfully assisted numerous businesses and individuals in evaluating their situation, mitigating the disruption to their lives, and resolving the issue.

Contracts

Contracts are created as a form of protection. We all enter into contracts with the hope that both parties will fulfill the terms listed in the document, each having an obligation to one another. Parties who have broken contracts claim many reasons, hoping that enforcement of the contract won't occur. Murphy Legal strives to resolve these disputes efficiently for our clients.

Commercial Litigation

Involving virtually every type of dispute that can arise in the business context, our team can evaluate the merits of the dispute and successfully prosecute or defend the legal and business needs of our client. Cases can range from breach of contract, partnership/joint venture disputes, to fiduciary duty allegations and everything in between. We strive to assist our clients in mitigating and resolving these issues.

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Meet Our Team



Paul Murphy focuses on transportation defense. He specializes in personal injury trial law and is certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. His area of expertise includes litigation involving individual injury resulting from automobile or trucking accidents, professional malpractice, defective products, premises liability, and negligence.

After graduating high school, Mr. Murphy enlisted in the United States Air Force. He was selected to serve under the Honorable William Jefferson Clinton as a member of the Presidential Honor Guard in Washington, D.C. While in the military, Mr. Murphy earned his bachelor's degree. After receiving an Honorable Discharge, he attended South Texas College of Law where he obtained his Juris Doctorate.

Since the beginning of his career as a litigator, Mr. Murphy has obtained numerous verdicts on behalf of individuals and corporations in the State of Texas. He represents a wide variety of clients with claims involving death, catastrophic injuries, personal injuries, and business disputes.

Mr. Murphy frequently serves as lead counsel in high-exposure litigation, and his goal is to ensure that all defense options available to a client are explored and implemented. He believes that the key to successful resolution of a case, whether by settlement or trial, is an early evaluation of strengths and weaknesses coupled with a clear strategy to utilize and manage those strengths and weaknesses.

Areas of Practice

Product Liability
Transportation
Insurance Defense
Medical Malpractice
Commercial Law
General Civil Litigation

Memberships

Transportation Lawyers Association
DRI – The Voice of the Defense Bar
Texas Trucking Association
American Bar Association
American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA)
Arkansas Trucking Association

Education

J.D., South Texas College of Law, 2000 B.A.,
McMurry University, 1997

Admissions

Texas, 2000
U.S. District Court, Southern District of Texas, 2000

Military

U.S. Air Force 7th Security Police Squadron, 1995-1997
United States Presidential Honor Guard, 1993-1995

Legal Specialization

Texas Board of Legal Specialization, Board Certified Personal Injury Trial Law

Other Certifications

Licensed pilot

Paul W. Murphy
Attorney
Paul@murphylegal.com

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Eddie Prado has extensive experience defending major transportation companies in courtrooms throughout Texas. With his collegial litigation style and uncommon tenacity, Mr. Prado has been instrumental in securing favorable settlements, rulings, and verdicts for his clients. He joined Murphy Legal in 2015 as a member of the firm's trial team.

Mr. Prado enlisted in the U.S. Army after graduating from college. He was selected to serve as an airborne infantry soldier and was ultimately awarded the Purple Heart after being critically wounded in Fallujah, Iraq in 2003. He then returned to school and obtained both his M.B.A. and, later, his J.D.

Areas of Practice

Transportation
Insurance Defense
Commercial Law
General Civil Litigation
Construction Law
Product Liability
International Law

Memberships

Transportation Lawyers Association DRI – The Voice of the Defense Bar Texas Trucking Association American Bar Association

Education

J.D., with honors, South Texas College of Law, 2015
M.B.A., Sam Houston State University, 2008
B.B.A., Finance, Texas A&M University, Mays Business School, 2002

Admissions

Texas, 2015
Colorado, 2021

Military

Rifleman C-CO 1-504 Parachute Infantry Regiment 82nd Airborne Division United States Army
Purple Heart Recipient

Se Habla Espanol

Eduardo Prado
Attorney

Eddie@murphylegal.com

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Jason Kipness joined Murphy Legal in 2022 as a member of the firm's trial and litigation team. Mr. Kipness has over twenty years' experience in litigating and trying cases in the State of Texas. Jason has extensive experience defending clients involved in "non-subscriber" employee work accident, transportation accident, premises liability, personal injury, and wrongful death claims.

He has had success securing favorable verdicts, arbitration awards and settlements on behalf of individuals and entities ranging in size from small, family held businesses to publicly traded corporations in the manufacturing, transportation, food, insurance, construction, healthcare and retail sectors.

Jason enjoys spending time watching his son play football and lacrosse, salt-water fishing in the Gulf of Mexico, beach vacations and following the Texas Longhorns.

Jason Kipness
Attorney
Jason@murphylegal.com

Areas of Practice

- Transportation Accidents
- "Non-subscriber" Employee Work Injury Claims
- Insurance Defense Claims
- Wrongful Death Claims
- Premises Liability Claims
- Personal Injury Claims

Memberships

- State Bar of Texas
- Oklahoma Bar Association
- Texas Association of Defense Council
- Dallas Bar Association

Bar Admissions

- State Bar of Texas
- Oklahoma Bar Association
- United States District Court, Eastern District of Texas
- United States District Court, Northern District of Texas
- United States District Court, Southern District of Texas
- United States District Court, Western District of Texas
- United States District Court, Western District of Oklahoma
- Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals
- United States Supreme Court

Education

- The University of Texas at Austin, B.A. Government, 1994
- St. Mary's University School of Law of San Antonio, Texas, J.D., 1998

Representative Cases

- Kathleen Hunter v. Baylor Health Care System, 2019 WL 3818838, (N.D. Tex. Aug. 8, 2019).
- Kathleen Hunter v. Baylor Health Care System, 2019 WL 2995899, (N.D. Tex. July 9, 2019).
- Jack In the Box, Inc. v. Skiles, 221 S.W.3d 566 (Tex. 2007).
- Lone Star Bakery, Inc. v. De La Garza, 04-13-00804-CV, 2014 WL 4230180 (Tex. App. – San Antonio 2014, orig. proceeding).
- In re Arpin America Moving Systems, LLC, 416 S.W.3d 927 (Tex. App. – Dallas 2013, orig. proceeding).
- In re Standard Meat, L.P.,
No. 05-06-01470-CV, 2007 WL 730660 (Tex. App. – Dallas 2007, orig. proceeding).

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Aaron Hubbard is a Louisiana native turned Texas attorney. He brought his experience as a Texas trial attorney and knowledge of Louisiana law to Murphy Legal in 2021. Drawing on his experience as a law clerk and practicing attorney, Aaron's focus on understanding his client's goals, and the legal process to reach those goals, has allowed him to achieve numerous favorable outcomes for clients.

Mr. Hubbard obtained a B.A. in history and pre-law from Louisiana College in 2013. He then went on to earn his juris doctor and graduate diploma in comparative law from the Louisiana State University, Paul M. Hebert Law Center in 2016. Following law school, Mr. Hubbard clerked for a Louisiana district court before moving to Texas and entering private practice.

Aaron Hubbard
Attorney

Aaron@murphylegal.com

Area of Practice

General Civil Litigation
Construction Law- (including Mechanics and Materialman's Lien)
Real Property
Contracts

Education

Louisiana College, B.A. 2013
Louisiana State University, Paul M. Hebert Law Center, J.D./ C.L., 2016

Admissions

Louisiana, 2016
Texas, 2018

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Kristie Giesenschlag has been a member of the Murphy Legal team since 2006. Kristie began working as a litigation paralegal in 2004, focusing primarily on insurance defense, transportation defense, and personal injury. She is an integral part of the Murphy Legal Paralegal Team and has been instrumental in developing the Murphy Legal System and workflow process. She strives to lead her team of paralegals in efficiency, assisting our attorneys in client representation.

When she is not keeping the Murphy Legal System flowing, Kristie loves spending time with her husband and two boys, fishing and doing other "boy mom" activities.

Memberships/Affiliations

Notary Public, State of Texas
Brazos County Paralegal Association

Education

Blinn College, Associates in Applied Science, Legal Assistant (Paralegal), 2006
Blinn College, Law Office Specialist Certification, 2006

Favorite Saying

Stay positive, work hard, and make it happen

**Kristie
Giesenschlag**
Chief Operations
Officer

Kristie@murphylegal.com



Ashley Chambers joined the Murphy Legal Team in 2022, bringing over 16 years of paralegal experience with her. Originally from Lawton, Oklahoma, Ashley moved to Texas with her husband and children in 2015 and calls Texas home. She started her career in the medical field as an LVN but eventually found her true calling as a paralegal. Ashley is able to combine her love of medicine and the law working personal injury cases with an understanding of the medical field.

Education

Kaplan University, Associates in Applied Science, Paralegal Program (2008)
Great Plains Technology Center in Nursing, CNA Certification and LVN Program (2003)

Memberships

Notary Public, State of Texas

Personal

Ashley enjoys listening to true crime podcasts, reading anything by Nicholas Sparks, spending time with her husband and kids, whether that be watching movies or doing outdoor activities, or hanging out with family and friends.

Ashley Chambers
Paralegal

Achambers@murphylegal.com

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Dawn Cagle
Paralegal

Dawn@murphylegal.com

Dawn Cagle joined the Murphy Legal Team in 2021, bringing over 25 years of paralegal experience with her. She has a passion for the law which led her to become a Paralegal in 1993 and immediately began working in a litigation practice. Those early days as a paralegal, she dealt primarily with insurance defense, personal injury and medical malpractice. In 2016, Dawn took a break from defense work and gained experience in criminal prosecution before returning to her love of insurance defense and personal injury with Murphy Legal.

Education

Texas School of Business – Paralegal Studies, 1993

Personal

When she isn't at the law firm, Dawn enjoys relaxing by the pool and listening to true crime podcasts. Recently, she began reflective journaling, which helps her to de-stress from the job. Other free time is spent with her teenage daughter, Trinity, whipping up new recipes in the kitchen, or traveling to see her grandchildren, Hollis and Blakelyn.

Favorite Quote

Seek His will in all you do and He will show you the path to take. Proverbs 3:6

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Results Driven

To ensure that our focus is always aligned with our clients' goals, we have developed a unique compensation system for attorneys. Unlike most defense firms, who compensate attorneys based on billable hours, our team members are compensated according to our clients' most important criteria, such as duration of the file, accuracy of case evaluation, and timeliness of reporting.

Team members are evaluated quarterly based on these and other key performance indicators. By aligning the interests of our attorneys and clients, Murphy Legal can provide the highest standard of quality, performance, and client trust in the legal- defense industry.

Billing System

We currently use Smokeball for traditional billing and reporting. The firm complies with all requirements as defined in client litigation guidelines, including the submission of invoices in LEDES format and through external billing systems such as DXC.

Language & Diversity

At Murphy Legal, our bilingual team of paralegals and attorneys service the needs of our clients and cases in both English and Spanish.

Murphy Legal is a highly diverse team of experienced attorneys and legal professionals. We believe that diversity extends beyond race and gender to include religious belief, age, culture, sexual orientation, and other considerations. Discrimination or harassment on any of these grounds is expressly prohibited at Murphy Legal, in any work-related activity, or in any of the firm's employment or recruitment practices.

Cyber Security Policy

Murphy Legal maintains a written cyber security policy that applies to employees, vendors and partners. The policy addresses data confidentiality, email and device security, antivirus protection, password management, data transfer, data retention, and backup procedures. Disciplinary actions, including termination, are taken in the event of a security breach. A copy of the full cyber security policy is available on request.

Ethics and Professional Liability

Neither the firm, nor any of its attorneys, have been subject to any disciplinary action by a court of law or state bar association.

We maintain a professional liability policy through Berkley Insurance Companies. Details are available on request.

References

References are available upon request.

Firm Contact Information

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