



Samuel D. Newton

ATTORNEY

Samuel D. Newton counsels clients in the construction, energy, and healthcare industries on a variety of legal issues.

CONTACT

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PRACTICE AREAS

- Construction Law
- Oil and Natural Gas Title Examination
- Oil and Natural Gas Transactions

EDUCATION

- Baylor University (B.A. in Political Science, magna cum laude, 2008)
- Texas Christian University (M.S. in Communication Studies, 2010)
- University of Oklahoma (J.D., with Distinction; Order of the Barristers; American Indian Law Review, Note and Comment Editor; Board of Advocates, President; National Trial Team; 2013)

ADMISSIONS

- 2013, Texas
- 2015, Oklahoma

BIOGRAPHY

Counselor and advocate—that is how Sam approaches his legal practice where he combines his experience working in-house for both large and small corporations with a varied practice focusing predominately on the construction, energy, and healthcare industries. Sam advocates for clients in contract negotiations, bid protests, default and defect disputes, administrative hearings, change order negotiations, as well as counsels clients on certain employment matters, real property, contract interpretation and administration, and general business issues and disputes.

Raised around small businesses, Sam brings this background to his work advising clients on the challenges facing today's small business owners whether it is formation and protection of the business, closing the first deal, ensuring succession to future generations, or selling the business.

A native Texan, Sam grew up in the Texas Hill County and moved to Oklahoma to continue his law practice in September 2017 where, using his dual licensure, he is able to advise clients in both states from Phillips Murrah's Oklahoma City and Dallas offices.

EXPERIENCE

- **Construction**
- Sam's construction experience ranges from working on a \$307 Million heavy civil public-private partnership and a 37.6 Mw solar plant to residential and commercial construction projects. Sam also works with subcontractors, prime contractors, and developers on both private and public projects. Specifically, Sam has represented clients on:
 - Bid protests, including successfully getting a client awarded a \$400,000 project originally awarded to a contractor in violation of the Oklahoma competitive bidding act
 - Bond and lien claims, including successfully negotiating and settling claims
 - Represented clients in increasing bonding capacity
 - Drafted, reviewed, and revised construction contracts for prime contractors and subcontractors
 - Represented clients in defect and breach of contract litigation
 - Negotiated and disputed delay and change order claims, including successfully resolving a \$75,000 back charge claim by a prime contractor
- **Energy**
- Sam represents landowners and corporations in a variety of energy related matters including:

- Rendering oil and gas title opinions for public and private companies in both Texas and Oklahoma
- Advised and counseled on oil and gas lease and contractual provisions and the impact on operations in both Texas and Oklahoma
- Negotiated wind leases
- Negotiated pipeline rights-of-way
- Drafting deeds and affidavits of heirship
- Negotiated with landowners over their claims against an oil field service provider
- **Healthcare**
- Sam also advised physician groups, long-term care facilities, and licensed professionals on various matters including:
 - Represented physician group on sale of practice
 - Counseled healthcare group on unclaimed property issues
 - Advised long term care facility on employment and general governance issues
 - Represented healthcare license applicant before the state licensing board securing their ability to continue the licensure process
- **General Transactional Matters**
- Outside of construction, healthcare, and oil and gas Sam has counseled clients in various fields including:
 - Drafting contracts and other documents related to the farming, sale, and purchase of hemp
 - Negotiated and enforced nondisclosure and confidentiality agreements
 - Negotiated third party service provider contracts for financial technology (Fintech) companies

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Oklahoma City Beautiful, Treasurer
- Luther Bohanon American Inn of Court XXIII

PUBLICATIONS

- [What happens when a general contractor files for bankruptcy?](#)
- [Medical Marijuana and Drug Testing in the Construction Industry](#)
- [How to avoid construction litigation with carefully constructed contracts](#)