

Over the past 20 years Christopher Nolland has established a national practice as Settlement/Negotiation Counsel, acting as the primary negotiator for one party *in a non-neutral role*. Nolland has been engaged as Settlement Counsel in dozens of matters, primarily involving complex high stakes business litigation and significant fiduciary disputes, including major trust and probate litigation, director and officer litigation, professional liability, intellectual property and patent disputes, class actions, partnership and closely held business litigation, as well as significant insolvency and litigation trustee matters. His Settlement Counsel practice has been the [subject of numerous articles in leading legal and business publications](#).



In addition to his Settlement Counsel practice, Mr. Nolland has been a mediator and arbitrator since 1993. He has conducted over 3,000 mediations and numerous arbitrations, primarily in complex business and commercial matters and fiduciary litigation. Nolland's mediation and arbitration practice focuses on large, complex, multifaceted disputes. His mediation and arbitration practice is national in scope. He is a member of the AAA National Panel of Arbitrators and the AAA National Panel of Mediators.

As an Adjunct Professor of Law at SMU Law School for twenty-five years Mr. Nolland has taught a full semester course on Negotiation to 2nd and 3rd year law students and LLM candidates.

After law school, Mr. Nolland served as an appellate law clerk and thereafter practiced law in New York City with a major national firm and in New York City and Dallas, Texas as a partner with a well-known national business litigation firm. Mr. Nolland is admitted to practice in Texas and New York and numerous United States Courts of Appeal and United States District Courts, as well as the United States Supreme Court.

Mr. Nolland is a Fellow of the American College of Civil Trial Mediators and a member of the National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals (both by invitation only), as well as a member of the Association of Attorney Mediators, and the ADR and Litigation sections of National, State and Local Bar Associations.

Chris Nolland was named by *Chambers* as a leading nationwide Mediator in each year from 2017- 2024, (in most recent years as Nationwide Band 2), noting in its 2020 profile that "*Christopher Nolland brings a 'very innovative' approach to mediation...*". In its 2023 profile, Chambers reported comments about Nolland that "*He is a really brilliant guy that is always thinking about how to take mediation to the next level.*" Most recently, in 2024 Chambers remarks that "*Chris is a wonderful mediator and also serves as settlement counsel to help parties resolve disputes. He comes with high praise.*"

Mr. Nolland was named by *D Magazine* as one of the Best Lawyers in Dallas in 2003, 2005, 2007, 2008, and 2010 – 2024 (all years the list has been published) and named as an Inaugural member of the D Magazine Best Lawyers Hall of Fame (2022). *Texas Monthly/Thompson Reuters* selected him as a Texas Super Lawyer from 2003 – 2024 and in 2007 and 2020 as one of the top 100 Lawyers in Texas. Selected for *The Best Lawyers in America by BL Rankings LLC* (2008 – 2024) and ranked as a Best Lawyer by *U.S. News and World Report* in 2013 - 2023. Mr. Nolland is one of 5 Texas mediator finalists statewide for the 2012 *Go-To Lawyers Guide* published by *Texas Lawyer*. In 2016 Mr. Nolland was selected by *Texas Lawyer* for its Lifetime Achievement Award.

American Lawyer named Chris Nolland to its 2021 inaugural class of Trailblazers South for his creation and development of a new practice area – acting as Special Settlement Counsel to clients in major litigation. In 2016, Mr. Nolland was named as a National ADR Champion by *The National Law Journal* and was the recipient of the Steve Brutsché Award from the national Association of Attorney Mediators (its highest honor). In 2018, he received the Justice Frank Evans Award from the ADR Section of the State Bar of Texas for excellence in the field of Alternate Dispute Resolution. In 2019 *Texas Lawyer* named Mr. Nolland a Texas Trailblazer for his development of the Special Settlement Counsel concept of bifurcating the litigation and settlement negotiation functions among different outside counsel in disputes of significance.

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SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

- Adjunct Professor of Law at Southern Methodist University Law School, teaching a course on Legal Negotiation and Settlement for 25 years
- Extensive experience as a neutral mediator (over 3,000 cases) and arbitrator
- Intense experience in all phases of litigation in federal and state courts and before arbitration, administrative, and regulatory tribunals involving a wide range of complex business, commercial, franchise, securities, intellectual property, and bankruptcy matters
- Briefed and argued hundreds of substantive and procedural motions and appellate matters in federal and state courts, including arguments before federal circuit courts of appeal and the judicial panel on multi district litigation
- Active practice as Special Negotiation/Settlement Counsel to law firms and clients in complex litigation for over 20 years
- AAA National Panel of Arbitrators and National Panel of Mediators

HONORS AND AWARDS

2017 – 2024 *Chambers USA* - selected most recently as a leading Nationwide (Band 2) Mediator

2021 – American Lawyer recognizes Chris Nolland in its Inaugural 2021 class of Southern Trailblazers for the creation and development of the Special Settlement Counsel concept

2003 – 2024: *D Magazine*/Best Lawyers in Dallas (selected all years the list has been published)

2003 – 2024: *Texas Monthly/Thompson Reuters* Texas Super Lawyer (selected all years the list has been published, including as one of the Top 100 lawyers in Texas in 2020)

2008 – 2025: *The Best Lawyers in America*

2013 – 2024: *U.S. News & World Report* – Best Lawyers in America

2016 *National Law Journal* ADR Champion

2016 Association of Attorney Mediators Steve Brutsché Award – its highest honor

2016 *Texas Lawyer* Lifetime Achievement Award

2018 State Bar of Texas ADR Section Justice Frank Evans Award - awarded annually for excellence and contributions in alternative dispute resolution

2019 Named by Texas Lawyer as a Texas Trailblazer for Settlement Counsel practice

2022 Inaugural Member D Magazine Best Lawyers Hall of Fame

BAR ADMISSIONS

Texas and New York State (all courts); United States Supreme Court; United States Courts of Appeal for the Second, Fourth, and Fifth Circuits; various United States District Courts in New York and Texas.

PRIOR LEGAL EXPERIENCE AND AFFILIATIONS

Partner/Counsel
Bickel & Brewer
1717 Main Street
Dallas, Texas 75201

Associate - Litigation
Kelley Drye & Warren
101 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10178

Partner/Counsel
Kraver & Parker
885 Third Avenue
New York, New York 10022

Confidential Law Assistant
Supreme Court Appellate Division
Third Department
Albany, New York

EDUCATION

Union University Juris Doctor, cum laude, 1977
Albany Law School Class Rank: 4th of 212
 Law Review

State University of B.A., cum laude, 1974
New York (Oswego) Major: Political Science

ACTIVITIES AND HONORS - LAW SCHOOL

Law Review, Associate Editor
Justinian Honor Society
Member of the Tax Moot Court Team
Advisor to the Tax Moot Court Team
Cameron-Danaher Award (Civil Procedure and Evidence)
Jacob L. Rubenstein Prize (Procedure)

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

AAA National Panel of Arbitrators and National Panel of Mediators
Association of Attorney Mediators
Association for Conflict Resolution
American College of Civil Trial Mediators
National/Texas Academy of Distinguished Neutrals
American, Texas, New York State and Dallas Bar Associations (member of ADR, litigation, and other sections of the foregoing bar associations)

OTHER TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Professor of Law, SMU Law School - Legal Negotiation and Settlement, 1997- 2021
Co-Coach, SMU Law School National Negotiation Team, 1994-2004
Texas State Bar Advanced Negotiation Seminar 1994, teaching coach
AAA Advanced Arbitration Training
AAA Securities Arbitration Training
Mediation Training: American Academy of Attorney Mediators
Frequent presenter at negotiation and mediation courses and CLE programs