

# WILSON SMITH COCHRAN DICKERSON

A Professional Service Corporation

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

## SHILPA BHATIA

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Wilson Smith Cochran Dickerson, Associate, 1998 - present

Practice focused on complex matters in products liability, toxic torts, and commercial litigation. Significant discovery, pretrial, mediation, and litigation experience, including:

- Represented manufacturer of aircraft parts in federal court. Briefed and won motion interpreting The Hague Convention on Service Abroad on matter of first impression in Ninth Circuit.
- Coordinating counsel for eight defendants and third-party defendants in state court action in which the plaintiff claimed toxic encephalopathy and cognitive impairments from exposure. Dismissed prior to trial, after significant fact and expert discovery.
- Counsel for attorney in professional malpractice claim. Defended against motion for summary judgment based on novel application of liability doctrines in state court action, leading to non-suit.
- Counsel for third-party plaintiff in a breach of contract matter. Drafted successful motion for summary judgment on interpretation of Washington business incorporation statutes, on a question undecided by the Washington Supreme Court; upheld on motion for discretionary review.
- Represented defendant in personal injury action. Directed verdict in bench trial on bifurcated legal issue, resulted in dismissal of all claims.

Houston, Texas Attorney, 1993 - 1997

Small firm employment and long-term contract assignments, with emphasis on complex litigation, products, and injury claims. Drafted motions, trial briefs, discovery; cross-examination of over 200 plaintiffs and witnesses in deposition; appellate briefing.

The Supreme Court of Texas, Judicial Intern, 1993

Reviewed and evaluated writs of error (petitions for discretionary review) and presented recommendations to judges in conference; wrote substantive bench memoranda for use by court; drafted and edited opinions; researched legislative history.

## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Supreme Court of Washington, 1998; US District Courts, Eastern and Western Districts of Washington, 1998; Supreme Court of Texas, 1993; Lawyers Helping Hungry Children, Board of Directors 1999-2001; Washington Defense Trial Lawyers; Defense Research Institute.

## EDUCATION

The University of Texas at Austin, cum laude, J.D., 1993  
Dean's Achievement Award; Townes-Rice Scholarship (full scholarship for eight highest qualified students); Teagle Foundation Scholarship; articles editor, Texas Journal of Women and the Law; Research Assistant, Practitioner's Evidence Guide; Intern for Capital Punishment Clinic.

The University of Texas at Austin, magna cum laude, B.A., 1990  
Special Honors in Plan II (honors program); Phi Beta Kappa; Senior Thesis: Censorship or Selection: Exploring Textbook Choices.