



J. F. Chester, JD / LL.M

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LAW PRACTICE

Partner, Klemchuk LLP. 2010-2012; 2018-Present.

- Advise innovation-based entrepreneurs, investors, as well as emerging/established businesses ranging from start-ups to billion-dollar annual revenue companies.
- Significant focus and experience advising ecommerce, software & mobile app entrepreneurs, developers, distributors, and investors.
- Extensive experience negotiating licensing, branding, development, distribution, and merchandising agreements.
- Have helped register copyright and trademarks in the US and international jurisdictions and coordinate the efforts to protect and enforce intellectual property rights.
- Provide domestic & international business legal representation for start-ups and other privately held technology and innovation-based companies regarding business formation and governance, ecommerce, business & technology transactions, intellectual property, international transactions, acquisitions, management, and a range of agreements (contracts, joint ventures, development agreements, distribution agreements, etc.).

PRIOR LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Managing Partner, Chester PLLC. 2003-2008; 2012-2018.

Shareholder & Chair, Global Technology Practice, Cowles & Thompson, P.C. 2008-2010.

Senior Associate & International Business Attorney, Braumiller & Rodriguez, LLC. 1998-2003.

CURRENT ENTREPRENEURIAL VENTURES

- **Founder, VENTAC.** (2020). Subscription-based legal consulting for startups and emerging ventures.
- **CEO/Co-Founder, Engage.** (2018). Attorney-only executive suites and co-working community.
- **Founder, White Rock Development.** (2008). Real estate & venture investments.
- **Inventor, Chester's Grillin' Blend,** (2004). Spice blend sold worldwide by Pendery's Spices.

UNIVERSITY TEACHING

CURRENT

- *Professor of Practice, Cox School of Business, Southern Methodist University. August 2019 – Present.* Teach Entrepreneurial and Business Law courses to graduate and undergraduate students at a Top 50 business school.

PAST

- *Adjunct Professor, Baylor University School of Law. May 2001 – July 2021.* Twenty years teaching International Trade Law and International Business Law courses.
 - *Adjunct Professor, Texas A&M University-Commerce. August 2017 – July 2018.* Teaching business law course to graduate accounting and business students.
 - *Adjunct Professor, University of Dallas. August 2006 – December 2009.* Teaching business law course to undergraduate business students.
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Selection of Speeches

- “eCommerce & IT Contracts Course,” Center For American Studies (Sept & Dec 2023).
- “8 Legal Mistakes Startups Make,” Dallas Startup Week (August 2022).
- “eCommerce and Online Business Legal Issues,” NBI (March 2021).
- “Contract Liability and COVID-19,” Rossdale Group CLE (June 2020).
- “Advising Online Businesses: Structural Concerns,” Strafford CLE (April 2020).
- “Ethics & the Mobile Lawyer”, Rockwall Bar Assn. (March 2020).
- “Legal Issues for Software, App & Game Developers”, CLE Companion (November 2019).
- “Buying & Selling Tech Companies”, DBA Science & Technology Section (August 2019).
- “Selling IP-Based Companies”, CLE Companion (August 2019).
- “The US-China Trade Dispute” Richardson Chamber of Commerce (August 2019).
- “Legal Issues for Software, App & Video Game Law”, Texas Savages (Oct 2016).
- “Success & Happiness for Lawyers,” Texas Independent Lawyer Alliance (August 2016).
- “Export Controls on Technology,” State Bar of Texas Advanced IP Course (March 2014).
- “Get the Most Bang for your Legal Bucks: Top ROI for Entrepreneurs”, E. Dallas Ch. of Commerce (May 2014).
- “Protecting IP in International Transactions,” State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting (June 2014).
- “IP Due Diligence in Investments and Acquisitions,” Dallas Assoc. of Young Lawyers (Feb. 2013).
- “Protecting IP in International Business,” State Bar of Texas, Paralegal Division, (Jan. 2013).
- “Who is my Client?,” Dallas Assoc. of Young Lawyers (August 2012).
- “Going Global: Regulatory Implications of International Business” co-presenter, NTEC (June 2012).
- “The Intersection of Trade & IP: Can Gray Market Goods Still be Imported?” ABA/IP Roundtable (Dallas) 2011.
- “Financing Int’l Trade,” International Small Business Development Center, Ft. Worth 2010.
- “Implementing an Effective FCPA Compliance Program,” Texas Minority Counsel Program Ann. Conf. 2010.
- “Combating Counterfeits,” 47th Ann. IP Law Conf., Center for American & International Law, 2009.
- “Protecting IP in International Trade, Texas Bar Assn Annual Mtg., 2009.
- “Basic of Intellectual Property Protection,” Collin County Bar Assn (Plano) 2009.
- “Domestic vs. Int’l Contracts,” Inst. Supply Chain Mgmt. (San Antonio) 2009.
- “Keys to Int’l Trade Compliance,” Inst. Supply Chain Mgmt. (Waco) 2008.
- “Export Controls and Technology,” DBA Computer Law Section 2008.
- “Legal Aspect of Int’l Trade,” Ft. Worth Int’l. Center 2008.
- “Financing Int’l Trade,” Ft. Worth Int’l. Center 2008.
- “Keys to Int’l Trade Compliance” Inst. Supply Chain Mgmt. (Wichita, KS) 2008.
- “Overview of IP Law,” Professionals Roundtable of Dallas 2007.
- “Overlap between IP and Trade Law,” DBA Computer Law Section 2006.

Selection of Publications

- “Legal Influence: Legal Issues for Content Creators”, Texas Bar Journal (Sept 2023).
- **eBook**: “Legal Playbook: Negotiating & Drafting Software Development Agreements” (2023).
- **eBook**: “Managing Intangibles: a Legal Handbook for Technology Businesses” (2021).
- **eBook**: “Transferring Intangibles: Buying and Selling Technology Businesses” (2021).
- “Game On! Legal Issues for Software, App & Video Game Entrepreneurs”, Texas Bar Journal (May 2017).
- **Textbook**: “Chester’s Practical Guide to Int’l Trade Regulation”, Baylor Law (2008 - 2019).
- “It’s a Digital World: eCommerce Legal Issues” Texas Bar Journal (November 2014).
- “Forward Thinking: Cost-Effective Legal Projects for Entrepreneurs,” Texas Bar Journal (September 2014).
- “Going Global: A Primer for Technology Companies” (co-author), Currents: Int’l Trade Law Journal (2013).
- “Protecting IP in International Markets,” Texas Bar Journal Vol 75, No, 7 (July 2012).
- “IP Due Diligence in Mergers & Acquisitions,” (co-author) DBA Headnotes (November 2010).
- **Inside the Minds: Protecting IP Rights in International Business Transactions** West, Aspatore Books (2011).
- “Don’t Trip Up Over TRIPS,” The Oath magazine (September 2011).
- “Case Study: Trademark Infringement Issues” (co-author), Jrnl. of Business (March/April 2011).
- **“Inside the Minds: Proactive Approaches to IP Licensing”** (co-author), West, Aspatore Books (2010).
- “Survey of Major CBP IP-Related Enforcement Actions in 2010”, CITBA Winter Journal (2010).
- “Protecting IP in International Trade,” Dallas Bar Association Headnotes (July 2009).
- “PRO-IP to Target Counterfeiters,” Texas Lawyer (Feb 2, 2009).
- “Comparing Int’l & Domestic Contracts,” eSide Supply Management (Fall 2008).
- “Convergence of IP and International Trade Law,” National Law Journal (2005).
- “Case Study: Potential Trademark Infringements” Journal of Business & Economic Research (2005).
- “In the Zone: Creating Profits Thru Savings Using FTZs,” Texas Lawyer (July 4, 2005).

EDUCATION

- LL.M., International Economic Law, University of Houston School of Law (May 2000).
- J.D., South Texas College of Law (Law Journal, Varsity Mock trial)(May 1997).
- B.S., Economics & Political Science, High Honors, Texas A&M University, Commerce (May 1994).

INDUSTRY HONORS

- Super Lawyer, *Law & Politics Magazine* (2013- Present).
- Alumni Ambassador Award, Texas A&M University, Commerce (1998 & 2018).
- Attorney of the Month, *Attorney At Law* magazine (August 2015).
- Best Lawyers in Dallas, *D Magazine* (2014).
- Rising Stars Under 40, by *Law & Politics Magazine* published in *Texas Monthly* (2008, 2009, 2011).
- Top Rated Lawyer in International Law & Trade, *Focus Europe* magazine (2013).
- Top Rated Lawyers in Intellectual Property, *The American Lawyer* (2013).
- Top Rated Lawyers in Intellectual Property, *Corporate Counsel* (2013).
- Top Rated Lawyers in Intellectual Property, *The National Law Journal* (2013).
- AV® Preeminent - Peer Review Rating by *Martindale Hubbell®* (2010-Present).
- Life Fellow, Texas Bar Foundation (2009 – Present).
- Life Fellow, Dallas Bar Foundation (2010 – Present).

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Mentor In Residence, SMU INCubator, SMU (2020-2023).
- Member, Board of Advisors, Venture College, Texas A&M University-Commerce (Dec 2019-Present).
- Member, North Texas Angel Network (2018-2020).
- Chair, International Committee, State Bar of Texas Intellectual Property Section. (2013-2015).
- Director, STCL Alumni Association (2010-2012).
- Member, Pro Bono College of the State Bar of Texas (2000-2004).
- Member, College of the State Bar of Texas (1999-2006, 2016-Present).
- Member, State Bar of Texas. (1997-Present).
- Life Member, St. Thomas More Society (2014-Present).

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

- City Councilman, City of Heath, Texas (2022-Present).
- Board Member, Texas A&M Commerce Foundation (2022-Present).
- Member, EDC/MBC, City of Heath, Texas (2020-Present).
- President, The Ridge-Heath HOA (2016-2023).
- Member, Parks Board, City of Heath, Texas (2018-2020).
- Member, Finance Council, Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church (2015 - 2019).
- Finance Chair, Dallas Little League (2014-2015).
- Director, Dallas Housing Crisis Center (2008-2011).
- Director, STCL Alumni Association (2009-2012).
- President, Lakewood Neighborhood Association (2005-2006).

ADMITTED TO PRACTICE LAW

- State of Texas, 1997.
- District of Columbia, 2004 (Inactive).
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Texas, 1998.
- U.S. Court of International Trade, 1998.

OTHER AWARDS & CERTIFICATIONS

- Certified Life Coach, The Academy of Modern Applied Psychology (2018).
- 3rd Place, State of Texas, ICS Salsa Contest (2014).
- Licensed US Customer Broker, US Customs & Border Protection (2000-2012).
- Certified Personal Trainer, American Muscle & Fitness (2001).