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The Verdict is in . . .

Legal problems may come courting but with wise counsel, taking action needn't be a trial. In this special section, we examine the evidence to discover what makes a top business litigator and showcase *10 top D-FW legal 'action heroes'* who we believe are among the best in the business.

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POWER PLAYERS

GREATER METROPLEX — Identifying the top performers among the Metroplex's wealth of legal talent is no easy task, so we started by defining a specific group of lawyers — litigation specialists who operate in the sphere of business law. We then conducted interviews with academics, business leaders and top legal talent to refine our selection criteria. We followed that up with a random survey conducted by Business Wire of local business owners and executives to find out what they look for — and look out for — when hiring or facing off against a top trial attorney.

Finally, we collated our — admittedly subjective — findings to identify about 30 local litigators, from which we selected the 10 names we heard most often.

To find out what makes the final 10 tick, we asked them to tell us about some of the landmark cases in their careers.

Jerry Clements

Locke Liddell & Sapp L.L.P.

Position: Partner, member of firm's management committee, head of litigation section

Hometown: Fort Worth

University attended: Texas Christian University

Law school attended: Baylor Law School

Years in practice: 22

Areas of expertise: Commercial litigation, class-action defense

Minimum billing rate per hour: \$425

Most high-profile case: Stromboe, et al., vs. Henry Schein, Inc.

This case resulted in a significant class-action opinion from the Texas Supreme Court that resulted in stricter standards for class certification in Texas.

Most personally satisfying case: An administrative proceeding where I was able to reverse the government's decision to revoke the top-secret security clearance of a defense industry



employee, which would have resulted in the loss of his job.

The employee was a recovering alcoholic who admitted his alcoholism during a 12-step program. The government's attempt to revoke his clearance when he was seeking help was inherently unfair.

Most challenging case: Defending a wrongful-death case early on in my

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career.

I was very sympathetic toward the survivors. I had to work constantly to

make sure I was vigorously defending my client.

I knew after that case that I needed to focus on a commercial litigation practice.