

SUSAN MOTLEY

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Susan Motley is a partner at Wood Weatherly Trial Law with 21 years' experience in labor and employment law. Currently, she focuses her practice on the representation of individuals in various civil trials and appeals, primarily in cases involving employment claims, torts, or other civil rights claims. For the first 11 years of her career, Ms. Motley focused exclusively on labor and employment claims on behalf of individuals and labor unions, both with her own firm and the firm last known as Gillespie, Rozen & Watsky, P.C., where she served as an associate then shareholder.

In 2008, Ms. Motley transitioned to public interest work, where she served as a Managing Attorney for Disability Rights Texas (www.drts.org), a non-profit organization designated by the State of Texas as its congressionally-mandated, legally-based protection and advocacy (P&A) agency¹ for persons with disabilities in Texas. While at Disability Rights Texas, Ms. Motley handled an active docket of disability-related civil rights claims and managed a statewide team of other attorneys handling similar cases, and most of their work was done on a *pro bono* basis. She also submitted an *amicus* brief in a criminal case on behalf of a young man with intellectual disabilities, educating the appellate court on the disability-related issues involved in the matter and supporting the young man's request for a new trial.

Ms. Motley has served in her current role since 2015. She is Board-Certified in Labor & Employment Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, has recently been elected as a Fellow in The College of Labor and Employment Lawyers, and has published several articles on various labor and employment law subjects. She is the immediate Past-President of the Texas Employment Lawyers Association, is a current Board member for the National Employment Lawyers Association, and serves on the governing council for the State Bar of Texas' Labor and Employment Section. Ms. Motley has been recognized for many years as a *Texas Super Lawyer* and was previously named as a *Best Lawyer in America*.

Ms. Motley is a 1997 graduate of The University of Texas School of Law and a 1993 graduate of the College of Charleston in Charleston, South Carolina. She is a native of Dallas, at least a third-generation Texan, and has four children, all of whom are now young adults.

¹ See <http://ndm.org/en/about/paacap-network.html> for more info on the nation's protection & advocacy system.