



SHELLY L. SKEEN, BFS Law Group  
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Shelly L. Skeen of BFS Law Group practices complex commercial litigation, representing businesses across the country in commercial litigation disputes in state and federal trial courts, appellate courts and in arbitrations. After graduating *magna cum laude* from law school, Shelly began her law practice as a Briefing Attorney for a Texas State Appellate Court of Appeals. Shelly has been a certified mediator since 2001, earned a Diploma in International Arbitration, and achieved a “Fellow” designation from the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators in London (CIArb), making her one of less than 475 lawyers in the U.S. holding the Fellow designation. Shelly also handles online free speech, business disparagement and defamation cases as well as probate, guardianship and estate planning for individuals and families, including LGBT individuals and families.

Shelly employs a practical, problem-solving approach to her practice. Shelly believes her client and her client’s priorities come first, and that her first job is to listen to her clients and then provide cost-effective legal advice to resolve their disputes quickly and efficiently.

Shelly has appeared before the United States Supreme Court, appeared and argued successfully before the Texas Supreme Court, appeared and

argued before the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals in Louisiana, appeared before the 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals in Ohio, the 7<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals in Illinois, United States District Courts in Texas, Michigan and Illinois, and several Texas State Appellate Courts.

Shelly has served a Council Member, Vice President, and Chair of a LGBT Law Section for the State Bar of Texas (SBOT), as the President of the Dallas LGBT Bar Association, and is a former member and board member of nonprofits, including Legal Aid of Northwest Texas and the Coalition for Aging, LGBT, where she served as the Co-Chair of the Policy & Legislative Advocacy Committee.

Shelly was appointed by the President of the State Bar of Texas to serve a three (3) year term on the State Bar of Texas’ CLE Committee. Shelly is also frequent speaker and author and is adjunct faculty for the National Institute of Trial Advocacy where she teaches trial skills to lawyers. She also teaches international arbitration in the Members program for CIArb.

In 2016, The Texas Bar College awarded Shelly The Franklin Jones Award for the Best Continuing Legal Education Article as voted by her peers. The LGBT Law Section also honored Shelly with its highest award, the Judge Black Award, for her work on behalf of the LGBT community.

Shelly is active in the local community where she performs volunteer work, has taught as an adjunct instructor, mentors for night time law students and high school students and serves as an assistant city prosecutor. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with friends and family, traveling, hiking, and reading.

In May 2018, Shelly earned an LL.M. from UCLA School of Law with specializations in Constitutional Law and Law & Sexuality (LGBTQ Law).

## **EDUCATION:**

University of California, Los Angeles, School of Law, LL.M.  
Two Specializations: Constitutional Law and Law and Sexuality (LGBTQ Law)  
The Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, London, England  
Diploma in International Arbitration  
Texas Wesleyan University School of Law, Fort Worth, Texas  
J.D., *magna cum laude*  
Law Review, Citation Editor  
Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas  
ABA Legal Assistant, Certificate in Business Law  
University of Washington, Seattle, Washington  
B.A., *cum laude* (Economics)  
University of Washington, Seattle, Washington  
B.A., *cum laude* (Psychology)  
Phi Beta Kappa

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS/CERTIFICATIONS:<sup>1</sup>**

State Bar of Texas, licensed  
Alternative Dispute Resolution Section – Former Member  
LGBT Law Section – Past Chair, Past Vice-Chair, Ex Post Facto Council Member,  
Member  
Real Estate, Probate, and Trust Law Section – Former Member  
Appellate Law Section – Former Member

Texas Bar Foundation – Member

Dallas Bar Association – Former Member  
Appellate Section – Former Member  
Probate, Wills, & Estates Section – Former Member

Dallas Diversity Task Force – Former Member

Dallas Gay & Lesbian Alliance – Former PAC Member

Dallas LGBT Bar Association – Past President, Past Vice-President, Member

Dallas Association of Young Lawyers Foundation - Life Fellow and Former Sustaining Life Fellow

LGBT Aging Coalition – Former Board Member & Co-Chair: Policy & Legislative Advocacy  
Committee

Legal Aid of Northwest Texas – Former Board Member

National LGBT Bar Association – Former Member

NLGBT Family Law Institute – Former Member

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<sup>1</sup> Shelly is renewing most of her memberships after her graduation from the LL.M program at UCLA School of Law.

North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce – Former Member

The National Mediation Academy, Dallas, Texas  
Certificate as a Certified Mediator and Neutral

The Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, London, England, Fellow, FCI Arb, Former Member

Arbitral Women, The International Network of Women in Dispute Resolution – Former Member

The College of the State Bar of Texas – Member

Attorney Ad Litem Certificate – State Bar of Texas

The State of Texas Continuing Legal Education Committee, Appointed by the President of the State Bar – Member, June 2016 – 2019

**ADMITTED TO PRACTICE BEFORE:**

The Supreme Court of the United States  
The United States Court of Federal Claims  
The Supreme Court of Texas  
United States Courts of Appeals for the Fifth, Sixth Circuits, and Seventh Circuits  
United States District Courts for the Northern, Eastern and Southern Districts of Texas  
United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois  
United States District Court, Eastern District of Michigan

**SELECTED EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE:**

Blume, Faulkner & Skeen, PLLC a/k/a BFS Law Group, Member  
Appellate Law, Arbitration (International & Domestic), Commercial Litigation, Estate  
Planning & Probate Law, LGBT Law

Ecumenical Mediation Service, Inc., Member and Faculty

City of Wylie, Texas, Part Time Assistant Prosecutor

ITT Technical Institute, Adjunct Instructor (Former)  
School of Business and School of Criminal Justice

Shackelford, Melton & McKinley, Associate  
Complex Commercial Litigation

Campbell & LeBoeuf, P.C., Associate  
Legal Malpractice and Grievance Defense, Complex Commercial Litigation, and Appellate  
Law

The Sixth District Court of Appeals for the State of Texas, Briefing Attorney

**SELECTED CASES, AWARDS, SPEECHES AND PUBLICATIONS:**

2016 Judge Black Award, LGBT Law Section for the State Bar of Texas, for significant

contributions by a member of the State Bar of Texas to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered legal issues, State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting, Dallas, Texas, Friday, June 23, 2017.

2016 Franklin Jones Award, State Bar of Texas, Texas Bar College, Best Continuing Legal Education Article - "*State of Rights Post – Obergefell*," Shelly L. Skeen, State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting, Dallas, Texas, Thursday, June 22, 2017.

Cause No. 13-0073-CV; *In re John Doe a/k/a Trooper*, case involving the Free Speech Rights of an Anonymous Online Speaker, Defamation, Business Disparagement and Personal Jurisdiction, before the Texas Supreme Court, Lead Counsel, Oral Argument, Nov. 7, 2013, opinion issued on August 29, 2014, in favor of Trooper, BFS Law Group's client.

Cause No. 03-16-00231-CV; *In re Chris Elliott*, case involving the Free Speech Rights of an Anonymous Online Speaker and the Texas Anti-SLAPP Statute, before the Third District Court of Appeals, Austin, Travis County, Texas, Lead Counsel, opinion issued on October 7, 2016, in favor of Mr. Elliott and John Doe 1, BFS Law Group's client.

Cause No. 13-30103; *Doug Welborn, in his official capacity as Clerk of Court of the Nineteenth Judicial District for the Parish of East Baton Rouge, Louisiana, et al. v. The Bank of New York Mellon, et al.* and Cause No. 13-50080; *El Paso County, Texas, et al. v. Bank of America Corporation, et al.*; Co-Counsel representing County Clerks in Texas and Louisiana against financial institutions over mortgages, In the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, Co-Counsel, Oral Argument, February 5, 2014.

Upcoming Issue: *The Marriage Equality Decision in Obergefell v. Hodges: Is it Retroactive? Practical Tips for Practitioners with LGBT Clients*, Shelly L. Skeen, Texas Bar Journal.

Upcoming: 2019 Annual Texas Association of Mediators Conference, Professional Development Conference, *Cutting Edge Issues in Mediations with LGBTQ Parties*, Shelly L. Skeen, Dallas, Texas, Friday-Saturday, March 1-2, 2019.

Upcoming: *Unmasking Anonymous Internet Speakers – Balancing the Right of Free Speech against the Right to Seek Redress for Injury for Wrongful Online Speech*, Shelly L. Skeen, University of North Texas School of Law Review, On The Cusp, February 2019.

Upcoming: *Masterpiece Cakeshop and Public Accommodations Laws: An expansion or an erosion of civil rights for LGBTQ Americans and Texans?*, Shelly L. Skeen, Dallas LGBT Bar Association, Dallas Bar Association, Dallas, Texas, Thursday, September 20, 2018.

Upcoming: *Masterpiece Cake: LGBTQ Americans and Texans Can Still Eat Cake*, Shelly L. Skeen, Lynne Rambo, Karen Langsley, and Adam Seidel, State Bar of Texas CLE, Austin, Texas, Thursday, August 30, 2018.

*Did the Supreme Court Just Create a License to Discriminate? What Masterpiece Cakeshop Means*, Rebecca Robertson of Equality Texas, Rafael McDonnell of Resource Center, Shelly L. Skeen, Dallas, Texas, Monday, July 16, 2018.

Mediation Training on LGBTQ Legal, Social, Psychological and Institutional Issues in Mediations, Shelly L. Skeen, Austin Dispute Resolution Center, Austin, Texas, Thursday, July 12, 2018.

*Masterpiece Cake and Its Ramifications for Free Exercise, Free Speech and Free Association*, DAPA, Dallas Bar Association, Thursday, June 28, 2018.

*State of Rights, LGBTQ*, Cece Cox & Shelly L. Skeen, North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce, 2018 Texas Business Equality Conference, hosted by Toyota, Frisco, Texas, Tuesday, June 26, 2018.

*Bill of Rights, Litigating the Constitution*, Adam Romero & Shelly L. Skeen, *Masterpiece Cake and Its Ramifications for Free Exercise, Free Speech and Free Association*, and Adam Seidel and Shelly L. Skeen, *State of Benefits Post-Obergefell: Pavan and Pidgeon*; State Bar of Texas CLE, Austin, Texas, Thursday, May 24, 2018.

2018 Annual Texas Association of Mediators Conference, Professional Development Conference, *Cutting Edge Issues in Mediations with LGBT Parties*, Shelly L. Skeen, San Antonio, Texas, Friday, February 23, 2018.

Texas Mediation Trainers Roundtable. *Train the Trainers Event*, Shelly L. Skeen, Keynote Speaker & Trainer, Thursday, San Antonio, Texas, February 22, 2018.

*Online Free Speech, Defamation and Personal Jurisdiction*, John Trevino for Shelly L. Skeen, North Dallas Bar Association, Dallas, Texas, November 14, 2017.

*Why the Preliminary Conference is Critical and How It Impacts the Arbitration: How To Prepare for and Participate in the Preliminary Conference*; *Handling Your First (or Next) Arbitration: Effective Use of Arbitration Course*, State Bar of Texas CLE, Course Co-Directors: Trey Bergman & Shelly L. Skeen, Austin, Texas, November 3, 2017.

Texas Mediator Credentialing Association (TMCA), 13th Annual Symposium: Trailblazers in Mediation: Exploring New Pathways, *What Every Mediator Needs to Know for Successful Mediation Involving the LGBT Community*, Texas A&M School of Law, Fort Worth, Texas, October 28, 2017.

Dallas Bar Association, Probate Symposium, *State of Rights Post-Obergefell in Texas*, Dallas, Texas, October 27, 2017.

*Please Pay the Bathroom Bill? Perspectives, Implications and the Impact of Grimm*, 2017 CLE Management & Professional Liability Conference, Panel Discussion: Organizers: Judge Anne Ashby, Shelly L. Skeen. Speakers: Judge Anne Ashby, Janson Wu, GLAD, Omar Gonzalez-Pagan, Lambda Legal, Claire Bow, LGBT Law Section, State Bar of Texas, Boston, Massachusetts, July 26, 2017.

*Advising Same Sex-Couples on Wills & Estates*, Dallas Bar Association, Dallas LGBT Bar Association, Dallas, Texas, July 20, 2017.

*Advising Same Sex-Couples on Wills & Estates*, Texas State Bar College 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer School, Speaker and Author, Galveston, Texas, July 14, 2017.

*Update on Retroactivity and How It Is Playing Out in Texas and Across the Country*, State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting CLE, Susan Sommer, Director of Constitutional Litigation, Lambda Legal and Shelly L. Skeen, BFS Law Group, Dallas, Texas, June 23, 2017.

*Estate Planning*, First Christian Church Disciples of Christ, Fort Worth, Texas, June 21, 2017.

*Marriage Equality: A View from the Plaintiffs, its Implementation, and its Future*, Corporate Counsel Section of the Collin County Bar Association; Mark Phariss, Esq., Shelly L. Skeen, Esq., and John Trevino, Jr., Esq., Plano, Texas, June 8, 2017.

*Legal Issues facing the LGBT Community*, White's Chapel United Methodist Church, Southlake, Texas, June 3, 2017.

*Cyberbullying*, 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Bill of Rights Course: Litigating the Constitution, State Bar of Texas CLE, Austin, Texas, May 26, 2017.

*An Evening with the Judges, Judges Roberto Canas, Denise Garcia, Maricela Moore, Tonya Parker, and Ingrid Warren, Moderator, Shelly L. Skeen*, Panel Discussion on Best Practices for Lawyers and LGBTQ Issues Facing Courts, Dallas LGBT Bar Association, Dallas Bar Association, Dallas, Texas, April 19, 2017.

*State of Rights After the Marriage Equality Decision*, PFLAG Dallas, Northaven United Methodist Church, Dallas, Texas, April 10, 2017.

*LGBT Family Law Marriage Equality-Retroactivity?* University of North Texas School of Law, Dallas, Texas, February 22, 2017.

*Informal Marriage-When Does it Start?* Speaker & Author, The Legal Impact of Marriage Equality, New Frontiers, New Issues, State Bar of Texas CLE, Austin, Texas, December 7, 2016.

*Motions Practice In Arbitration – A Guide for Counsel*, Mercy McBrayer, Shelly L. Skeen, & Richard D. Faulkner, Just Resolutions, Dispute Resolution Section, American Bar Association, Upcoming Issue.

*Unique Legal/Financial Challenges of the Aging LGBT*, Moderator, Panel Discussion, Annual Summit on LGBT Aging, University of North Texas, Health Sciences Center, Coalition for Aging, LGBT, Fort Worth, Texas, November 12, 2016.

*Life After Obergefell*, Panel Discussion, Judge Denise Garcia; Joanna Grossman, Ellen K. Solender Endowed Chair in Women and the Law and Professor of Law at SMU; Natalie Nanasi, Director of the Judge Elmo B. Hunter Legal Center for Victims of Crimes Against Women and Assistant Professor of Law at SMU; Shelly L. Skeen, President of the Dallas LGBT Bar Association, & Omar Alaniz, Partner at Baker Botts LLP, Southern Methodist University, October 24, 2016.

*Defamation on the Internet and the Anti-Slapp Statute*, Shelly L. Skeen and Dave Wishnew, Dallas Bar Association, Dallas, Texas, October 21, 2016.

*State of Rights - The Marriage Equality Decision, What it Means for You, your Clients and your Practice*; Dallas LGBT Bar Association, Dallas, Texas, October 20, 2016.

*State of Rights - The Marriage Equality Decision, What it Means for You, your Clients and your Practice*; Northeast Tarrant County Bar Association, Colleyville, Texas, October 18, 2016.

*Same Sex Issues: Marriage, Divorce, Property Division, and Property Agreements*, Panelist & Author, 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Advanced Family Law Course, State Bar of Texas CLE, San Antonio, Texas, August 2, 2016.

*Same Sex Issues: SAPCR, Paternity, and Adoption*, Panelist & Author, 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Advanced Family Law Course, State Bar of Texas CLE, San Antonio, Texas, August 2, 2016.

*Property Issues for Heterosexual and Same Sex Spouses: Same Difference?*, Karen J. Langsley and Shelly L. Skeen, State Bar of Texas Live Webcast CLE, Austin, Texas, July 28, 2016.

*Unique Legal/Financial Challenges of the Aging LGBT*, Moderator, Panel Discussion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Summit on LGBT Aging, Southern Methodist University, Plano Campus, Coalition for Aging, LGBT, Plano, Texas, July 23, 2016.

*LGBT Family Law After Obergefell*, Moderator, Annual Meeting, State Bar of Texas CLE, Fort Worth, Texas, June 17, 2016.

*LGBT Aging: Issues and Laws Affecting LGBT Seniors*, Annual Meeting, Barton Poche' and Shelly L. Skeen, State Bar of Texas CLE, Fort Worth, Texas, June 17, 2016.

*State of Rights Post-Obergefell*, 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Bill of Rights Course: Cutting Edge Controversies in Constitutional Law, State Bar of Texas CLE, Austin, Texas, May 27, 2016.

*LGBT Law: Obergefell Update*, Poverty Law Conference State Bar of Texas CLE, Austin, Texas, April 27, 2016.

*Welcome to the Wild Wild West!, Defamation on the Internet*, Dallas Area Paralegal Association Dallas Bar Association, Belo Mansion, January 28, 2016.

*The Marriage Equality Decision & What It Means to You*, The National Federation of Paralegal Professionals, Live National Webinar, December 9, 2015.

*The Impact of Marriage Equality on Texas Law*, State Bar of Texas, Full Day of CLE, Course Director and Speaker, *Obergefell v. Hodges*, *What It Is and What It Means* and *LGBT Estate Planning, Financial Planning, and Probate After Obergefell*, December 1, 2015.

*Welcome to the Wild Wild West!, Defamation on the Internet*, Dallas LGBT Bar Association, Dallas, Texas, November 19, 2015.

*Welcome to the Wild Wild West!, Defamation on the Internet*, Northeast Tarrant County Bar Association, Colleyville, Texas, November 17, 2015.

*Resolving Same Sex Issues in the Collaborative Process*, 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Collaborative Law Conference, Global Collaborative Law Council, Dallas Bar Association Collaborative Law Section, State Bar of Texas Collaborative Law Section and Texas Center for Legal Ethics, Dallas, Texas, September 17, 2015.

*Embrace the Power of Difference*, Panel, State Bar of Texas Leaders Conference, Westin Galleria, Houston, Texas, July 25, 2015.

*The Marriage Equality Decision and What it Means for Your Clients*, TexasBarCLE, Live Webcast, Co-Course Director and Speaker, Texas Law Center, Austin, Texas, July 22, 2015.

*Welcome to the Wild Wild West! Defamation on the Internet*, 9<sup>th</sup> Annual State Bar Bill of Rights Litigating the Constitution Course, Shelly L. Skeen & Robert L. Tobey, Texas Law Center, Austin, Texas, Live and Live Webcast, May 29, 2015.

*Diversity Conference*, Texas A & M University School of Law, Diversity Student Conference,

February 20, 2015.

*Fair and Impartial Courts*, A Judicial Panel, Hon. Mark S. Cady, Chief Justice Iowa Supreme Court, Hon. J. Woodfin Jones, Chief Justice Third District Court of Appeals for the State of Texas, and Hon. Tonya Parker, Presiding Judge, 116<sup>th</sup> Civil District Court, Moderator, State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting, Austin, Texas, June 27, 2014.

*The Aftermath of the Fall of DOMA: A Survey of Same-Sex Marriage Cases and What it Means for Us*, Texas Minority Attorney Program, Speakers: Shelly L. Skeen and John Trevino, Jr., El Paso, Texas, May 22, 2014.

*Legal Ethics: Hot Topics and Current Events*, Webcast, National Business Institute, Speakers, James D. Blume & Shelly L. Skeen: Attorney Speech, What Lawyers Can and Cannot Say; Multi-Jurisdictional Practice Ethics; Conflicts of Interest, Attorney's Fees; Handling Bar Grievances and other Disciplinary Actions; and Confidentiality, Loyalty, and the Attorney Client Privilege, December 31, 2012.

*Disclosures: Practical Considerations for Ensuring Arbitrator Impartiality and Independence in Reinsurance Arbitrations*, Advanced Forum on Reinsurance Disputes in Litigation and Arbitration, American Conference Institute, New York City, Shelly L. Skeen & Richard D. Faulkner, April 30-May, 1, 2012.

*Navigating Arbitration under the FAA and the TAA*, Collection Law Seminar, Dallas Bar Association, Shelly L. Skeen and Richard D. Faulkner, November 20, 2008.

*Not So Concrete: "Whenever Feasible" and Error Preservation in Broad Form Submissions in the Wake of Casteel, Harris, and Romero*, North Dallas Bar Association, 2007, Shelly L. Skeen and Nathan J. Schwartz.

*The McMansions are Coming: Professional Liability for Real Estate Professionals in the Wake of New Laws Regulating the McMansions*, Professional Liability Underwriting Society Journal, May 2006, pp. 3-4.

*Know When to Sue Your Lawyer*, Executive Legal Advisor, Jan/Feb 2006, pp. 22-23.

*Due Process Denied, Special Report, Legal Malpractice & Grievance Defense*, TEXAS LAWYER, Vol. 20, No. 50, Bruce A. Campbell & Shelly L. Skeen, February 14, 2005.

*Dangers of Rule 11 Agreements, A Trap for the Unwary*, Bruce A. Campbell & Shelly L. Skeen, November 2005.

*Can I Lie to You? False Statements, Failures to Disclose and Other Sins Committed in Communicating with Tribunals*, Bruce A. Campbell & Shelly L. Skeen, Spring 2005.

*City of Sherman v. Henry: Is the Texas Constitutional Right of Privacy Still a Source of Protection for Texas Citizens?* Texas Wesleyan Law Review - Fall 1997.

#### **OTHER EDUCATION:**

NITA ADVOCATE DESIGNATION, 2014

#### **OTHER SELECTED VOLUNTEER AND PROFESSIONAL WORK:**



Attorneys Serving the Community, Former Member - Leadership Level  
Past Co-Chair Publicity Committee, Individual Underwriting Committee, and Past Chair  
and Co-Chair Communications Committee

National Institute of Trial Advocacy – Instructor Trial Skills

The Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, London, England, Tutor for Member Program

University of North Texas, School of Law – Mentor, First Year Night Law Students

Wylie, Texas Teen Court – Instructor and Mentor

**CHURCH:** St. Paul's United Church of Christ

**HOBBIES:** Spending time with family and friends, travel, reading, hiking, biking, golf, tennis