

# Christopher R. Dyess

Chris Dyess joined the firm as an associate in 2020. While at the firm, Mr. Dyess' practice focuses on representing individuals and business of all sizes in commercial disputes in federal and state courts as well as arbitrations and mediations. In addition to Mr. Dyess' robust complex commercial litigation practice, he also represents and counsels businesses in employment law matters.

Prior to joining the firm, Mr. Dyess was an employment counselor and litigator at Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP's New York office. While there, Mr. Dyess was a key member of the firm's internationally recognized Employment Litigation Practice Group. Mr. Dyess began his legal career as an attorney in the Complex Commercial Litigation practice group at Latham & Watkins LLP's Chicago office.

Mr. Dyess has represented some of the largest companies in the United States in high-stakes "bet the company" cases. Mr. Dyess has a broad array of litigation experience encompassing all areas of pre-trial litigation. Mr. Dyess has extensive experience counseling clients through all phases of the litigation process including written and document discovery, motion practice, litigation strategy, depositions and working with experts to develop reports and prepare for testimony.

While Mr. Dyess enjoys the art of litigating, his business experience working for a large commercial banking institution prior to law school gives him the perspective necessary to always consider his clients' business needs first. Mr. Dyess understands that often the best outcome for a client does not involve litigating matters in court. Mr. Dyess strives to counsel his clients long before a formal dispute arises to provide strategic advice that serves his clients' business needs and long-term strategic objectives.

Mr. Dyess is also a board member of the Northwestern Pritzker School of Law New York City Alumni Association. Prior to his career in business and as an attorney, Mr. Dyess was a professional musician in New Orleans, LA where he grew up. Mr. Dyess continues to play music in New York City.

## **REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS INCLUDE:**

- Representing a major boutique investment bank in high-profile litigation in New York against several former partners who were terminated after breaching their partnership and employment agreements with the firm;
- Representing a major boutique investment bank in a significant putative class action asserting that a portfolio company violated the Fair Labor Standards Act, New York Labor Law, and the California Labor Code by failing to pay regular and overtime compensation to its employees;
- Representing a publicly traded truck and engine manufacturer in a "bet the company" class action involving over forty individual federal cases consolidated into a multidistrict litigation for pre-trial purposes involving claims such as breach of warranty, fraud and a variety of state consumer protection laws. Mr. Dyess was also a key member of the team representing this client in the same matter in over forty additional state cases across the United States;
- Representing a well-known trillion dollar technology company in a high-profile disability discrimination class action regarding website accessibility for the visually impaired;
- Representing a well-known internet telephone service provider in a disability discrimination class action regarding website accessibility for the visually impaired;
- Representing a food manufacturer against charges of racial discrimination and hostile work environment raised by a former manager;

- Representing a publicly traded healthcare company in dispute with a former senior executive involving restrictive covenants; and
- Representing a consulting firm in an international trade secrets dispute with a former manager in the firm's Paris, France office who left to join a competitor.

In addition to his litigation engagements, Mr. Dyess has assisted in the drafting and negotiation of separation agreements, and terminations for high-level corporate executive officers for a variety of companies, including those that are publicly traded.

Mr. Dyess received his J.D., *cum laude*, from Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, where he served as Senior Articles Editor of the Journal of Law & Social Policy. He received his B.S., *summa cum laude*, from the University of New Orleans.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

*Off With His Head: The King Can Do No Wrong, Hurricane Katrina and the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet*, 9 Nw. J. L & Soc. Pol'y, 302 (2014)

*Credit Agency Rating Review Board: The Challenges and Implications of Implementing the Franken-Wicker Amendment to Dodd-Frank*, Pepperdine University Journal of Business, Entrepreneurship & the Law, 8 J. Bus. Entrepreneurship & L 79 (2015)

*Can Employers Enforce Non-Competes Against California Employees?*, New York Law Journal, Feb. 5, 2019 (co-authored with Jeffrey S. Klein and Nicholas J. Pappas)

*Labor Department Clarifies Joint Employer Rule*, New York Law Journal, Feb. 4, 2020 (co-authored with Jeffrey S. Klein and Nicholas J. Pappas)

*Second Circuit Clarifies Standard for Gender-Based Pay Disparity Claims*, New York Law Journal, Mar. 25, 2020

*The Coming Tsunami of Employment-Related COVID-19 Litigation*, New York Law Journal, Apr. 21, 2020

*Workers' Comp May Not Be 1st Choice For Virus Claims*, [www.Law360.com](http://www.Law360.com), Apr. 24, 2020

*How "Blurred Lines" Copyright Ruling is Affecting Music Biz*, [www.Law360.com](http://www.Law360.com), June 9, 2020



## CONTACT

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Connect on [LinkedIn](#)

## EDUCATION

Northwestern Pritzker School of Law  
J.D., 2014 *cum laude*  
University of New Orleans  
B.S. Finance, 2007 *summa cum laude*

## BAR ADMISSIONS

New York

## PUBLICATIONS

[Workers' Comp May Not Be First Choice For Virus Claims](#)

[The Coming Tsunami of Employment-Related COVID-19 Litigation](#)

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