

DAMIAN W. ABREO

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SENIOR COUNSEL | HUGHES WATTERS ASKANASE L.L.P.

Mr. Abreo is a senior attorney whose practice is concentrated primarily in the areas of commercial litigation, creditors' rights, and mortgage banking.

He has extensive expertise in default servicing (bankruptcy, foreclosure, collection, and eviction) and civil trial and appellate practice.

A strategist and pugilist by nature, Mr. Abreo has vigorously and effectively represented his clients throughout all levels of the state and federal courts in the State of Texas and the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit for over twenty years. Mr. Abreo is cognizant that the "biggest win" doesn't always come after a trial victory, but often involves a business solution brought about by the application of appropriate and overwhelming legal force.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Hughes Watters Askanase, LLP, Houston, Texas

Senior Counsel

2020- Present

- Assume primary responsibility for litigation arising from the firm's default servicing practicing, including all aspects of pre-trial, trial, and appellate practice.
- Represent clients in all aspects of business, construction, title, and consumer litigation.
- Serve as a resource for other attorneys and staff. ("My door is always open. Let's solve the problem before it becomes a problem.")

Johnson DeLuca Kurisky & Gould, P.C., Houston, Texas

Senior Counsel

2014-2020

- Represent mortgage Servicers in all phases of litigation in state and federal court throughout Texas.
- Serve as litigation counsel for several construction companies in suits involving mechanic's liens, payment disputes, and construct defect claims.
- Represent auto dealerships in matters ranging from collections to defense of personal injury claims.
- Manages the activities of work group composed of three junior attorneys and served as primary trial and arbitration counsel.
- Primary appellate attorney for work group; prepare all appellate briefing and appear for arguments, including argument before the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Barrett, Daffin, Frappier, Turner & Engel, LLP, Houston, Texas

Senior Litigation Attorney

2011-2014

- Defend mortgage lenders and servicers from actions filed by borrowers in state and federal courts including claims arising Fair Debt Collections Practices Act, Truth in Lending Act, Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act, the Texas Property, Probate, and Business and Commerce Codes, and common law.

- Prosecute judicial foreclosure of home equity security instruments in courts throughout Texas.
- Represent mortgage company clients as claimants in federal criminal forfeiture actions.
- Represent the interest of mortgage clients in ad valorem tax suits, judicial foreclosure suits initiated by homeowner's associations, and municipal and county administrative proceedings.
- Represent substitute trustees appointed under security instruments serviced by clients.

Shapiro Schwartz, LLP, Houston, Texas
Litigation and Bankruptcy Associate

2010-2011

- Managed bankruptcy representation for mortgage servicer clients in all federal districts in Texas.
- Defend mortgage company clients from action filed by borrowers in state and federal courts throughout Texas.
- Reviewed and approved closing documents for sales of foreclosed properties from Federal National Mortgage Association REO inventory.

Barrett, Daffin, Frappier, Turner & Engel, LLP, Houston, Texas
Bankruptcy Associate

2007-2010

- Managed Freddie Mac stay relief litigation for Texas. Assisted managing attorney in prosecution of claims litigation and adversary litigation on behalf of Freddie Mac.
- Managed stay litigation for all of the firm's clients for the Southern District of Texas including Wells Fargo, Chase Home Loans, Countrywide Home Loans, Inc, Citigroup, and Bank of America.
- Appeared for various clients before U.S. Bankruptcy Courts in Houston, Galveston, Victoria, Laredo, Mc Allen, Brownsville, Beaumont, El Paso, and Tyler.

The Heston Law Firm, P.C., Houston, Texas
Partner
Associate

2004-2007

2001-2004

- Together with partner, directed all aspects of firm business, including advertising, facilities, and procurement.
- Managed up to nine employees to assure quality of work product and fulfillment of practice goals.
- Resolved employee disputes, managed employee benefits and compensation.
- Managed court dockets for approximately 3,500 consumer bankruptcy cases, including stay litigation, claims litigation, and adversary litigation.
- Appeared at all hearings for the firm's clients.
- Managed all aspects of stay litigation, claims litigation, and adversary litigation on behalf of the firm's clients.
- Drafted all non-form motions and responsive pleadings.
- Met with clients for initial consultations and for preparation of pleadings.

The Law Office of Damian W. Abreo, Houston, Texas
Attorney/Proprietor

1998-2001

- Planned, executed, and managed all aspects of consumer bankruptcy and general civil litigation practice.

EDUCATION

THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON BATES LAW CENTER
Doctor of Jurisprudence

1998

RICE UNIVERSITY
Bachelor of Arts, Sociology

1995

LICENSURE

- Licensed, State Bar of Texas *1998-Present*
- United States District and Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Texas (*admitted 2001*)
 - United States District and Bankruptcy Court for the Northern Districts of Texas (*admitted 2007*)
 - United States District and Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern Districts of Texas (*admitted 2007*)
 - United States District and Bankruptcy Court for the Western Districts of Texas (*admitted 2007*)
 - Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals (*admitted 2016*)

AWARDS AND HONORS | CERTIFICATIONS

- Certified, Consumer Bankruptcy Law, Texas Board of Legal Specialization (now inactive) *2004-2014*
- Named *Texas Super Lawyer Rising Star* by Thomson Reuters *2009*

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- State Bar of Texas
- Houston Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys *2001-Present*
- National Institute of Trial Advocacy *2014-Present*

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

- Secretary and Director, Buffalo Soldiers National Museum, Houston, Texas *2012-2018*
- Men's A.C.T.S. team, St. Jerome Catholic Church *2018-2020*
- Member Knights of Columbus Council 4550 *2016-Present*