



Daniel E. Rodriguez

Senior Associate

drodriguez@kelleydrye.com

Houston
(713) 355-5024

About

Whether navigating a high-stakes contract dispute, protecting critical infrastructure assets, or prosecuting fraud claims on behalf of Fortune 500 companies, Daniel Rodriguez delivers the legal precision, technical fluency, and commercial judgment that clients need to prevail in complex business litigation. Daniel represents mid-sized and large companies in disputes involving complex contracts, business torts, fiduciary duties, cryptocurrency, fraud, energy and infrastructure assets, port and railroad operations, real estate and easement rights, trade secrets, intellectual property, employment disputes, and oil and gas royalty obligations. He is known for his close attention to detail, strong legal writing, and ability to identify evidence, arguments, and legal issues that may otherwise be overlooked.

Daniel's practice is especially focused on disputes and transactions involving ports, railroads, terminals, pipelines, dock and maritime infrastructure, property rights, easements, leases, and oil and gas royalty obligations. Clients rely on him in matters that require not only legal analysis, but also business judgment, technical fluency, and practical problem-solving. Drawing on his litigation experience and engineering background, Daniel develops strategies designed to protect commercial leverage, preserve operations, and position clients for favorable outcomes through negotiation, motion practice, mediation, arbitration, and trial.

Daniel also has substantial courtroom experience. Before joining Kelley Drye, he practiced at both a large energy-focused firm and a boutique commercial-litigation firm, where he regularly handled contested hearings, evidentiary proceedings, depositions, mediations, arbitrations, and case strategy. He has argued numerous hearings, secured several temporary restraining orders and injunctions, examined witnesses in depositions and at trial, handled cases as lead attorney from inception through resolution, and served as lead trial counsel. That experience gives him a practical understanding of how disputes unfold in court and how to prepare cases with the evidentiary record, procedural posture, and business objectives in mind.

Before entering private practice, Daniel served as a law clerk to the Honorable Andrew M. Edison of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas. That clerkship gave him direct insight into how federal judges evaluate pleadings, motions, evidence, and oral advocacy, and shaped his writing-focused approach to litigation. Daniel's clerkship experience taught him that many cases are won or lost through the clarity, credibility, and precision of the written record long before a hearing begins.

Daniel is particularly effective in matters where the key issues sit at the intersection of law, business, and technical complexity. Before law school, he earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering and a Business Foundations Certificate with honors from The University of Texas at Austin while playing football for the Texas Longhorns, and he also worked as an engineer for Halliburton. In addition to his litigation practice, Daniel owns and operates a residential real-estate investment business focused on acquiring, renovating, and renting residential properties. This combination of technical training and business experience allows him to quickly understand complex facts, identify gaps in opposing arguments, and translate complicated evidence into clear, persuasive themes for courts, arbitrators, and business decision-makers. It also gives him a practical understanding of how businesses evaluate risk, financing, cash flow, accounting, operations, and deal economics—an insider perspective that is rare in the legal community and helps him approach disputes with both legal precision and commercial practicality.

Daniel is also an active member of his church and a devoted husband and father to three young boys.

Experience

Trial, Injunction, and Courtroom Victories

- Served as lead trial counsel and obtained a take-nothing judgment against the plaintiff in a dispute between former business partners involving claims for fraud, breach of fiduciary duty, and misappropriation of company funds.
- Served as first-chair counsel and successfully obtained a temporary restraining order and injunction in a contested corporate governance dispute between competing groups of alleged board members.
- Served as lead counsel and secured a \$650,000 fraud judgment and attorney's fees for a real estate developer against a financial broker following a contested evidentiary hearing.
- Served as lead counsel and obtained a complete summary-judgment victory in probate court dispute.
- Secured a \$55 million judgment after a jury trial for a client whose ownership interest in a company was misappropriated through breaches of fiduciary duty and breaches of contract.
- Successfully defended against a request for a temporary restraining order and injunction and secured a favorable settlement in employment dispute involving enforcement of a non-compete, non-solicitation, and confidentiality agreement.
- Obtained a contested temporary restraining order preventing a hostile takeover of a corporation leading to a favorable settlement.

Ports, Railroads, Infrastructure, and Commercial Agreements

- Negotiated a favorable resolution of a multimillion-dollar dispute involving a port client's easement rights to install a pipeline across private port property leased to a third party.
- On multiple occasions, advised a port client on easement and lease issues that resulted in the recovery of millions of dollars in additional compensation owed under existing agreements.

- Represented port and railroad companies in disputes involving lease rights, easements, operational access, land use, property restrictions, and contractual obligations.

Energy, Oil and Gas, and Royalty Litigation

- Represented an oil and gas company in an international arbitration against a Fortune 100 company involving alleged breaches of a joint operating agreement and farmout agreement relating to oil and gas development projects in Colombia.
- Represented a Fortune 500 oil and gas company in a dispute with the federal government concerning decommissioning obligations for offshore facilities.
- Represented several oil and gas companies in royalty disputes with mineral-interest owners arising under various oil and gas leases.
- Represented mineral-interest owners in disputes with other mineral-interest owners concerning disputed mineral rights.
- Represented a mineral-interest owner in a royalty-payment dispute with an oil and gas company.

Business-Ownership, Fiduciary-Duty, and Fraud Disputes

- Represented as lead counsel a defendant property development company in a multimillion-dollar dispute with an investor resulting in the claimant dropping his claims and taking nothing at the summary judgment stage.
- Represented as lead counsel the co-owner of a company in a dispute involving the alleged unauthorized sale of the business for below-market value, misappropriation of trade secrets, trademark infringement, and fiduciary duty violations.
- Assisted in developing expert testimony addressing complex fiduciary-duty issues in multiple business ownership disputes involving share dilution, minority-owner oppression, valuation disputes, and squeeze-out transactions.
- Negotiated a favorable settlement for a cryptocurrency company in a dispute with an investor involving alleged fraud and breach of contract.

Construction, Real Estate, and Lease Disputes

- Negotiated a favorable settlement in a multimillion-dollar construction dispute involving unpaid contract amounts and lien rights.
- Negotiated a favorable settlement as lead counsel for a construction company in a payment dispute with a subcontractor.
- Represented as lead counsel a commercial tenant in litigation arising from the tenant's early termination of a commercial lease.

Affiliations

Houston Bar Association, 2019-present

Christian Legal Society, 2017-present

Related Services

Litigation

Blockchain and Cryptocurrency

Commercial Litigation

Employment Litigation

Energy

Intellectual Property

Land Use

Nonprofit Organizations

Ports

Rail

Real Estate

Securities and Capital Markets

Trade Secrets and Restrictive Covenants

Trademark and Copyright Litigation

Technology

Education

Baylor University Law School, J.D.

- cum laude
- Order of Barristers, Dean's Academic Excellence Full-Tuition Scholarship

The University of Texas at Austin, B.S.

- Mechanical Engineering

Admissions

Texas

Courts

U.S. District Court-Southern District of Texas

U.S. District Court-Eastern District of Texas

U.S. District Court-Western District of Texas