



## **Paul K. Stafford**

Carter Stafford Arnett Hamada & Mockler, PLLC

Paul K. Stafford was born on March 22, 1968, and grew up as the youngest of five children in Prairie View, Texas. Paul attended Waller County schools and was an honor student who lettered in football, tennis, and band, and served as President of the Student Council. Paul was the Salutatorian of the Waller High School Class of 1986.

Paul attended Texas A&M University and earned a Bachelor of Science in Political Science (minor in Economics) in 1990. While at A&M, Paul received the President's Achievement Award, Buck Weirus Spirit Award, and was a Distinguished Student. He also served as the Student Representative to the Faculty Senate, as the Vice President of Student Government, and on the Chancellor's Advisory Board. Paul was a founder of the Southwestern Black Student Leadership Conference, was Secretary of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., was named Who's Who Among Texas A&M Greeks, and was named one of the Outstanding Young Men of America.

A keen interest in law and service led Paul to law school. After graduating from A&M, Paul attended Texas Tech University School of Law and earned a Juris Doctorate in 1994. While at Texas Tech, Paul was a founding member of the Black Law Students Association, a member of the Board of Barristers, a member of Phi Delta Phi, and was named Who's Who Among American Law Students.

Between 1994 and 1998, Paul served first as an Assistant District Attorney in Denton County, Texas, followed by service as an Assistant District Attorney in Dallas County, Texas. While in Dallas, he served as a felony prosecutor in the Organized Crime Division, trying numerous cases to conviction.

In 1998, Paul began practicing civil litigation with Amis & Bell in Arlington, Texas, where he was named "Trial Horse of the Year" in 1999 and again in 2000. Paul joined Werstein, Smith & Wilson in 2002, focusing on commercial general liability defense. In 2004, Paul joined the Dallas office of Hughes & Luce LLP (now K&L Gates LLP) as a Senior Trial Attorney practicing in the areas of business litigation, complex commercial litigation, insurance law, and white collar crime. In 2008, Paul formed The Stafford Law Firm, and in 2012, Paul became a founding partner of CARTER STAFFORD ARNETT HAMADA & MOCKLER, PLLC., a majority-minority owned litigation boutique focusing primarily on the areas of complex commercial & business litigation, intellectual property, and insurance policyholder litigation, as well as labor & employment matters. In addition, Paul has been an Adjunct Professor at Texas Tech University School of Law since 2002, having taught Insurance Law, Trial Advocacy, and Interviewing & Counseling.

Paul is licensed by the State of Texas and in the Federal District Courts, Northern, Southern, Eastern, and Western Districts of Texas. He was named a Rising Star by Law & Politics and

Texas Monthly magazine for three consecutive years (2005; 2006; 2007). In 2007, Paul was named an "Outstanding Alumnus" by the Black Law Students Association of Texas Tech University School of Law. In 2008, Paul was named one of the Eight Top Lawyers in Dallas by Eclipse magazine. Law & Politics and Texas Monthly named him a Super Lawyer in 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012, and a Super Lawyer – Corporate Counsel in 2010.

Aside from being a seasoned litigator, Paul has been active in the state and local legal community since law school. He is a past member of several State Bar of Texas committees, including Opportunities for Minorities in the Profession, Public Affairs, and the Standing Committee on Racial Diversity. Paul is a member of the J. L. Turner Legal Association, and served as President of JLTLA in 2002. He has also served on the Board of Trustees of the Dallas Bar Foundation since 2005.

Paul is currently (2012) the President of the Dallas Bar Association. Consistent with his commitment to the legal profession, Paul has been an active member of the Dallas Bar Association for years. In 2004, Paul served as Co-Chair of the DBA's Minority Participation Committee, which received the 2004 Jo Anna Moreland Outstanding Committee Award. In 2005, Paul served as Co-Chair of the DBA's Admissions & Membership Committee, with the DBA's membership eclipsing 10,000 for the first time. In 2006, Paul served as Co-Chair of the Equal Access to Justice Campaign and was named Dallas Bar Association Outstanding Minority Attorney. In 2007, Paul served as Chair of the Equal Access to Justice Campaign, raising a then-record amount for pro bono legal services in Dallas County. In 2008, Paul served as Co-Chair of both the DBA's Judiciary Committee and the Bench Bar Committee, and received a Presidential Achievement Award for his work as Chair of the DBA's "A Bar For All" bar-assessment committee. In 2009, Paul was Co-Chair of the DBA's Mentoring Committee, and served on the Law Jam II Committee. In 2010, Paul served on the DBA's Strategic Planning Committee as well as President of the Community Service Fund Board. Paul has served as Vice-Chair and Chair of the DBA's Board of Directors, as well as DBA Second Vice President, First Vice President, and President-Elect.

Paul is an active member of the Texas A&M Association of Former Students, serving on its Board of Directors from 2007 to 2011, and serving as 2011 Legislative Chair. Paul also co-founded The Black Former Student Network in 2001, serving as its Chair in 2007-2008. He is a founding member of the Department of Political Science Former Student Advisory Board, and he serves on the Liberal Arts Development Council.

Paul is also active in the North Texas community, serving on a variety of boards and commissions in the area. He serves on the Advisory Board of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, and is currently on the Board of Trustees of the World Affairs Council of Dallas Fort Worth and a member of the Dallas Committee on Foreign Relations. He has also served on the Board of Directors of Camp John Marc: Special Camps for Special Kids, as well as being a volunteer with Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Texas.

In 2003, Paul was selected by the German Marshall Fund of the United States to be an American Marshall Memorial Fellow. As an AMMF and through GMF, Paul has travelled extensively in Europe discussing a variety of transatlantic and legal issues. Paul currently serves on the GMF Board of Trustees.