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Culhane Meadows Announces Houston Expansion and Addition of Nine Lateral Texas Partners

Culhane Meadows PLLC, one of the nation's largest cloud-based law firms, announces expansion into Houston along with the addition of nine lateral partners to support further growth of its technology, corporate, finance, international, real estate, tax and general business law practices in Texas.

The new lateral partners are **Jonathan K. Hustis**, **Ajay Mago**, **Brent R. Somers**, **Gordon P. Williams, Jr. (Chuck)**, and **James L. Young** (all based out of the Dallas office, with Mr. Mago also practicing out of the Chicago office), along with **Alicia L. Goodrow**, **Michelle D. Nickel**, and **Cliff Simpson** (opening the Houston office), and **Kristen Geyer** (Austin). Mr. Mago joins the firm directly from Duane Morris LLP, and the other eight partners moved over from Phillips & Reiter PLLC.

Culhane Meadows continues to attract experienced, entrepreneurial business attorneys from distinguished organizations who are drawn to the firm's innovative business platform. "My colleagues and I considered a number of 'new generation' law firms as we contemplated our options for a lateral move," explains Alicia Goodrow. "Ultimately, Culhane Meadows made it an easy decision because all of us were immediately impressed by the genuinely collaborative environment, the cutting-edge technology platform, and the exceptional caliber of partners who are available to serve our clients."

Started by a group of former Big Law attorneys, some of whom had worked together for more than 15 years, Culhane Meadows now has attorneys based in seven major U.S. business markets: Atlanta, Austin, Chicago, Dallas, Houston, New York, and Washington DC. Unlike traditional law firms, Culhane Meadows does not employ any associates and every lawyer is a partner with substantial experience at large national and international law firms or in-house legal departments of respected companies. The Firm also utilizes a platform that leverages modern technology and cloud-based commuting, resulting in significantly lower overhead and therefore lower hourly rates to clients – not to mention happier lawyers.

Jon Hustis identifies the firm's use of strong technology to drive collaboration, collegiality, and efficiency as a key factor that sets the firm apart from other cloud-based legal service providers. "Culhane Meadows provides a truly collaborative partnership balanced with a business model that relies on innovation to eliminate wasteful overhead typical of many traditional firms," Hustis explains. "The firm's commitment to delighting clients with prompt and excellent service at a very efficient price-point, and the growing bench of experienced counsel with diverse backgrounds made it a very attractive fit."

Brent Somers points to the warm welcome he and his colleagues have received as confirmation of their decision to join the firm, noting that "Culhane Meadows has fully delivered on its promise to provide a better way to practice law." He adds: "Who knew the practice of law could be this gratifying and this much fun?"

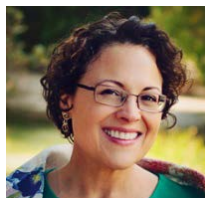
Ajay Mago says his clients' feedback says it all. "Having spent nearly decade at Jones Day and Mayer Brown, my clients recognize and appreciate Culhane Meadows as the legal industry's response to their changing needs," he explains. "Business clients are savvy and they are discovering how to benefit from sophisticated Big Firm expertise without the legacy overhead of expensive offices and legions of untrained associates who train on the client's dime."

“This has been our quickest and largest multi-attorney expansion,” says Grant Walsh, one of the founding partners. “It has been a whirlwind of excitement and hard work, but we feel incredibly honored that so many amazing and talented attorneys have decided to make Culhane Meadows their professional home.”

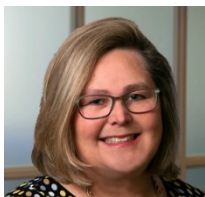
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[Culhane Meadows PLLC](#) is a full-service national business law firm with attorneys based in Atlanta, Austin, Chicago, Dallas, Houston, New York and Washington, DC. The firm serves clients who enjoy exceptional and highly-efficient legal services provided exclusively by partner-level attorneys with significant experience and training from large law firms or in-house legal departments of respected corporations. *U.S. News & World Report* has named Culhane Meadows among the country’s “Best Law Firms” in its annual rankings for three years in a row.

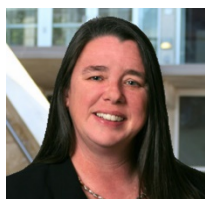
Summary Biographies of New Partners



[Kristen Geyer](#) has deep experience with legal and financial issues in more than 30 countries, giving her the ability to quickly assess and understand the impact of difficult multi-jurisdictional legal challenges for her clients and to develop practical legal solutions in line with their business objectives. Ms. Geyer’s sophisticated international practice serves clients on transactional, commercial, technology and financial services matters (with particular expertise in custody, clearing and settlement, collateral and financial regulation). She partners with general counsel and in-house legal teams to provide strategic legal management of complex multi-country projects, offering clients a cost-effective way to organize transactional legal support from deal structuring through operational implementation. For non-U.S. companies, she provides “first stop” U.S. counsel advice. Her extensive experience outside of the U.S. also helps her provide practical advice to U.S. companies of all sizes in navigating the potential legal pitfalls of doing business internationally. Prior to joining Culhane Meadows, Ms. Geyer was General Counsel, Board Secretary and Chief Compliance Officer for a major global financial firm, worked for the US Securities Exchange Commission, the UK financial regulator and pre-eminent U.S. law firms.



[Alicia L. Goodrow](#) brings Fortune 10 as well as start-up and family office experience to the Firm. She uses her 25 years of tax and business law background to counsel fast-growth companies, international joint ventures, and complex private holding companies. From energy, pipelines, wind and solar, and real estate to film and entertainment investment, Ms. Goodrow finds the win-win solution to matching funding to know-how. Her clients include Cross Creek Pictures, Africa Integras, Mexssub International, and other successful private ventures. As a skilled counselor, Ms. Goodrow has become “the lawyers’ lawyer” representing growing legal, accounting, and medical partnerships in sorting out their business issues and creating smooth legal paths to ownership succession. Culhane Meadows opens up new resources and national connections to complement her clients’ growth into new markets.



[Michelle D. Nickel](#) is adept and knowledgeable, assisting clients in a variety of industries such as banking, automotive lending, real estate and oil & gas. Backed by nearly 20 years of business law experience, she quickly grasps concepts, allowing her to understand each client’s business goals and objectives. Ms. Nickel uses her rich legal background to serve companies that range from multinational energy producers to small manufacturing and service-related firms to sports-related non-profit

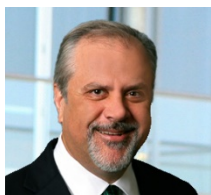
organizations. She recently served as Regional Counsel for Ally Financial (formerly GMAC), focusing on commercial lending activities, real estate, Article 9 of the UCC, banking compliance and litigation management in the automotive space. Deals she led include \$2.1B refinancing of terminals and pipelines; \$1.3M loan purchase and restructuring; liquidation of over 100 distressed properties; and disposition of over 500 properties in bulk sales transactions. “I am humbled and happy to open the Houston office with my colleagues,” says Ms. Nickel. “Culhane Meadows appeals to me because of its unique culture and a new age approach to providing excellent legal services. I know the value of my clients’ dollars, and Culhane Meadows offers the platform necessary to offer companies outstanding legal service at amazing cost-savings.”



Jonathan K. Hustis is a seasoned lawyer with over 30 years of experience in guiding clients of all sizes through corporate governance issues, strategic alliances and joint ventures, and a diverse range of business transactions. He has a legal and executive career extending across a diverse range of information technology businesses: from start-ups seeking seed capital, to multi-national Fortune 500 enterprises like Oracle Corporation and Texas Instruments. Building on this strong industry experience, he currently represents small to mid-size technology companies in their formation, financing, corporate, M&A, outsourcing and commercial legal affairs. “Culhane Meadows represents an ideal opportunity to structure legal services for my clients’ needs using technology-driven collaboration, collegiality, and efficiency,” says Mr. Hustis.



Ajay Mago has closed over \$12 billion in complex corporate (PE, M&A and VC), technology and finance transactions involving a wide range of jurisdictions, including the United States, India, the United Kingdom, Singapore, Turkey, Russia, Brazil, Peru, the Netherlands, Canada, Mexico, Bangladesh, Japan, Germany, Kazakhstan, Southern Sudan and Uganda. Mr. Mago is known for his unparalleled ability to quickly close complex transactions and get to the nuts and bolts of the important issues. Mr. Mago regularly serves as outside counsel to emerging growth companies and works proactively and collaboratively with clients’ management teams and boards of directors to oversee clients’ legal needs and their integration with operations and business initiatives. He also regularly advises clients on cutting-edge legal and policy issues at the nexus of technology, national security, law enforcement and privacy, including strategic cybersecurity counseling and related representation. Specifically, Mr. Mago advises companies as they anticipate threats, assists them as they comply with data security and privacy requirements, and represents them as they address cyber vulnerabilities and breaches, as well as associated regulatory, litigation and reputational consequences.



Cliff Simpson provides senior legal executive experience to dozens of growing companies in the Houston area and around the country. He enjoys sharing his business-oriented in-house legal experience and consultative, proactive counseling skills to companies who need a practical and reliable lawyer. From product development to multi-tiered distribution strategies, Mr. Simpson has counseled clients of all sizes on every type of commercial and technology transaction. Recent work includes creation of a licensing and distribution strategy for chemical supply companies in a multinational joint venture; managing commercial transactions including joint development and joint marketing strategies for growing software companies; advising and negotiating on behalf of large and small companies in disputes involving patents, trademarks, and licensing programs; support for transactions involving acquisition and disposition of company assets; and support and oversight of federal and state government contracting efforts for commercial clients. Mr. Simpson’s corporate career includes serving

in-house at Reliant Energy and Compaq Computer Corporation. “We’re excited and energized to introduce Culhane Meadows to Houston. The Houston business economy continues to grow and develop, and there is a real need for practical, business-oriented legal support. Culhane Meadows has the breadth and depth of legal talent to help clients address all of their corporate legal needs.”



Brent R. Somers serves real estate clients throughout the Dallas/Fort Worth and North Texas region. He is a business-oriented attorney with 34 years’ experience in commercial real estate transactions and operations, including acquisitions and dispositions, financing, leasing (both for landlords and tenants) and asset management. He Says Mr. Somers: "Every time I think I've seen it all, some new real estate twist comes along that I've never seen before, which keeps the practice interesting. I am very excited to be joining Culhane Meadows along with 7 trusted colleagues from my prior firm. We have all been delighted by the truly collaborative culture, the state-of-the-art tech, the top-notch talent and the warm welcome we have received. Who knew the practice of law could be this gratifying and this much fun?"



Gordon P. Williams, Jr. (Chuck) brings more than 30 years of superior legal leadership to his corporate advisory practice where he focuses on the needs of emerging companies and funding event preparation and execution. He also serves as Outside General Counsel to select companies, structures strategic commercial and M&A deals with a plan to maximize value and mitigate risk over lifecycle of deal, develops streamlined processes to shorten sales cycle and make revenue recognition more reliable for his clients and counsels them to deal more effectively with crises – mitigating cost, disruption and risk. A Martindale-Hubbell AV- Preeminent® rated attorney with demonstrated expertise in strategic planning and execution to build sustainable enterprise value, Mr. Williams has served as Counsel to global companies both in a General Counsel role as well as in private practice. “I am excited to join such a diverse and highly accomplished group of lawyers who actively collaborate to better serve their clients,” says Mr. Williams.



James L. Young (Jim) is an experienced and versatile General Counsel and senior corporate generalist, arbitrator and mediator with over 30 years of experience in guiding clients of all sizes through corporate governance issues, various forms of strategic alliances and joint ventures, and a diverse range of business transactions and issues. His legal and executive career has included service as General Counsel and senior corporate generalist for a number of insurance companies, ranging from small and privately owned through publicly owned Fortune 500 financial services conglomerate Conesco Inc., and leading privately owned educational publishing company Saxon Publishers, Inc., many of which engagements were turnaround projects. Mr. Young currently represents small to mid-size manufacturing, sales, service and other businesses in connection with all aspects of their legal and business affairs. “My clients need sophisticated and experienced legal representation, advice and counsel delivered at rates that are affordable within existing budgetary constraints. Culhane Meadows is a robust, capable and versatile platform from which I can more effectively meet those needs,” says Mr. Young. He added, “Culhane Meadows also provides a fertile environment in which to grow my arbitration and mediation practice, in keeping with the overall notion of providing more effective and efficient service to constituents.”

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