

Rusty Hardin began his career as an assistant district attorney for Harris County and served as chief of one of the felony divisions for eight years. He established Rusty Hardin & Associates in 1996, and the firm now has 16 lawyers and focuses primarily on civil matters while also engaging in a substantial white-collar criminal defense practice. Hardin has tried over 170 jury trials, and his clients have been as varied as Arthur Andersen, Dow Jones, the J. Howard Marshall II estate against claims made by Anna Nicole Smith, ExxonMobil, Rice University, Las Vegas Sands, Arkema, and a lengthy roster of professional athletes that includes Wade Boggs, Warren Moon, Scottie Pippen, Calvin Murphy, Adrian Peterson, Roger Clemens, James Harden, and Deshaun Watson. Hardin is one of only four attorneys in the U.S. and the only attorney in Texas honored as a 2018 Global Elite Thought Leader in litigation by *Who's Who Legal*. He is a member of the American College of Trial Lawyers (ACTL), the International Academy of Trial Lawyers (IATL), the Litigation Counsel of America (LCA), and the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA). The London-based Chambers and Partners Publishing has recognized Hardin as a top U.S. trial lawyer and a Texas Band 1 lawyer in both commercial litigation and white-collar criminal defense, and *Best Lawyers* recognized him in both commercial litigation and white-collar criminal defense and named him 2019 Lawyer of the Year in Houston for white-collar criminal defense. In 2020, the Litigation Section of the State Bar of Texas inducted Hardin as a "Texas Legal Legend," and he was named a "Trial Ace" by *Law360* and a "Lion of the Texas Bar" by *Texas Lawbook*. The Litigation Section of the State Bar of Texas inducted Hardin as a Texas Legal Legend, and *Benchmark Litigation* selected him as a Litigation Star in Texas in Commercial Litigation. Hardin was recognized as one of the 100 Most Influential Lawyers in America by *The National Law Journal* and one of "The 25 Greatest Texas Lawyers of the Past Quarter-Century" by *Texas Lawyer*. A native of North Carolina, Hardin received his undergraduate degree from Wesleyan University and his J.D. from Southern Methodist University.