**Desmond L. Cooks**

1700 Pacific Avenue, Ste 1810 • Dallas, TX 75201 • (214) 684-8864 • desmond.cooks@cookslawfirm.com

**Professional & Community Involvement**

The National Black Lawyers Top 40 under 40; Board of Directors for Gateway Charter Academy;

Associate in Patrick Higginbotham Inn of Court

**Education**

**Baylor University School of Law**, Waco, TX *Juris Doctor*, February 2008

* Mock Trial Team Member, Cathy Bennett National Criminal Trial Competition
* Excelled in Advanced Trial Advocacy (A) and Advanced Trial Preparation (B+)

**University of North Texas**, Denton, TX *Bachelor of Science*, *Criminal Justice*, *cum laude*, December 2003

* President and Dean’s List
* Alpha Phi Sigma – Criminal Justice Honor Society

**Legal Experience**

**City of Dallas Municipal Court,** Dallas, TX*Associate Judge*, August 2016 **–** Present

* Preside over Municipal Court for all class C Misdemeanors, City matters, criminal jury and non-jury trials, pre-trial conferences, and juvenile matters.
* Advise inmates of their rights, set bonds, and accept pleas.

**Cooks Law Firm, PLLC,** Dallas, TX*Owner,* February 2015 – Present

* Practice areas include commercial and civil litigation, personal injury litigation, employment matters, criminal defense and contested and uncontested divorces.

**Scheef & Stone L.L.P.,** Dallas, TX *Associate*, April 2013 – February 2015

* Practice areas included commercial and business litigation, contract disputes, real estate, defending complex commercial disputes and general negligence litigation.

**Helms and Greene/ The Willis Law Group,** Dallas, TX*Associate*, November 2010 – April 2013

* Practice areas included civil ligation and employment matters for corporations and major insurance carriers, including contract disputes, personal injury litigation, premises liability, general negligence litigation, and workers’ compensation and non-subscriber workers’ compensation matters. Assists in all aspects of litigation from inception through trial.
* Conducted numerous depositions and mediations to resolve personal injury litigation.
* Appeared before multiple Small Claims and Justice of the Peace Courts to conduct jury trials. Successfully attained jury findings of No- Liability in each case.

**Dallas City Attorney's Office,** Dallas, TX*Assistant City Attorney*, December 2008 – November 2010

* Prosecuted traffic citations and violations of municipal ordinances with criminal penalties.
* Appeared on various dockets set in eight courtrooms where, during an average week, approximately 2100 cases were set for trial.
* Drafted complaints for the prosecution of court cases and addressed important municipal legal issues.

**Other Experience**

**U.S. Navy**, San Diego, CA *Second Class Petty Officer*, 1998 – 2002

* Managed a team of 10 during operations performed in the Arabian Gulf.
* Developed a training program to effectively instruct foreign military on specialized radar equipment.
* Excelled in military leadership school. Promoted four ranks in the span of two years.