



2020 REVIEW

WATTS | GUERRA ^L_P

A NOTE FROM MIKAL AND FRANK

Hello Everyone!

2020 brought a lot of unforeseen challenges to the world. The pandemic forced everyone to pivot and change how we operate. We had to learn to work under new circumstances.

We shifted our workforce to work from home for a portion of the year so that our clients would not see any delays in their cases. We navigated the new court changes and rescheduled trials when the courts closed, but continued to take depositions and conduct hearings by zoom so that our cases were prepared for trial. Ultimately, we made sure that the coronavirus was not going to stop us.

This change brought so many good things as well. We are stronger than ever. We were also able to teach a new group of law clerks in the Watts Guerra way, give back to our community, and continue to work tirelessly for our clients while bonding in ways we did not know were possible.

Here is a brief recap of our year and as you read about it, we hope that you found good to celebrate in 2020 like we did!

Mikal & Frank

OUR TEAM

SAY *hello* TO OUR NEW CLERKS

We had our largest group of summer law clerks to date, all eager and excited to learn more about the legal field.



KELSEY ABBEY
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
SCHOOL OF LAW
J.D. CANDIDATE, MAY 2022



ROGER ALONZO
ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY
BACHELOR OF ARTS:
CRIMINAL JUSTICE



LOGAN COOK
LEWIS & CLARK LAW SCHOOL
J.D. CANDIDATE, MAY 2022



WILL FINLEY
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
AT AUSTIN
APPLIED MOVEMENT SCIENCE
EDUCATION



GRACE HOLLAND
ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF LAW
J.D. CANDIDATE, MAY 2022



HARRIS HOWARD
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
AT AUSTIN
BACHELOR OF ARTS: ENGLISH,
MINOR: SOCIOLOGY



LANA LEVIN
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
SCHOOL OF LAW
J.D. CANDIDATE, MAY 2020



SHAY MCMULLAN
TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
BACHELOR OF ARTS: PR,
MINOR: SPANISH



ILLIANA PARKER
ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF LAW
J.D. CANDIDATE, MAY 2022

OUR TEAM

OUR *returning* CLERKS



WESTON EISMANN

ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF LAW
J.D. CANDIDATE, MAY 2021



LAUREN OTTMERS

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF LAW
J.D. CANDIDATE, MAY 2024



OSCAR QUIROZ

ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF LAW
J.D. , MAY 2020



LAURA RAMIREZ

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
BACHELOR OF ART:
PHILOSOPHY



AMANDA REYES

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
BACHELOR OF ARTS:
POLITICAL SCIENCE



MARSHALL VOORHIES

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA
BACHELOR OF ARTS:
HISTORY



OUR TEAM

OUR *grasshoppers*

Affectionately known as "grasshoppers", our law clerks navigated a pandemic while learning about our law firm. In addition to attending virtual depositions and mediations, they were able to balance school activities like moot court or mock trial while getting to chat with local judges and ask questions.



OUR TEAM

Welcome TO THE TEAM

Our team expanded in 2020 as several attorneys joined our firm or were promoted!



JENNIFER NEAL

Jennifer's skill and expertise recently resulted in her being promoted to Income Partner. She specializes in personal injury, mass torts, harmful pharmaceuticals, and commercial litigation

JERRY WHITE



Jerry joined our firm in 2020 as an Income Partner and specializes in general negligence, gross negligence, products liability, and premises liability.



ALEXIS GARCIA

Alexis joined our firm late in 2020 as an Associate Attorney. She specializes in plaintiff-side personal injury litigation, commercial litigation, and mass torts.

MICHAEL MONTAÑO



Michael joined our firm in 2020 as an Associate Attorney. He specializes in complex and high-stakes civil litigation, with a primary focus on antitrust and privacy class actions.

OUR TEAM

Welcome TO THE TEAM

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JON GIVENS

Jon recently switched from Of Counsel to Income Partner at our firm and specializes in personal injury, product liability, mass tort litigation, commercial litigation, agriculture law, and class action cases.

NOREEN EVANS

Noreen joined us as Of Counsel in 2020 and is a Certified Appellate Specialist.



JOHN CRACKEN



John Cracken has worked with Watts Guerra for years and is Of Counsel for our firm. He works closely with us in connection with the prosecution of mass torts relating to agricultural, medical device, and pharmaceutical products.

JAMIE SHAW

Attorney James (Jamie) Shaw is Of Counsel for Watts Guerra LLP. where Shaw and Watts Guerra represent with a sizable docket of Nationwide Commercial Vehicle Litigation and Mass Tort Matters.



POPULAR POSTS

Write ON!

Last year we relaunched our blog. Our attorneys and law clerks filled its pages with hot topic articles and legal information that quickly became popular pieces. Below are some of the most-read blogs on the site in 2020.



THE TRAILBLAZING WOMEN OF WATTS GUERRA

We focus the limelight on the powerhouse female attorneys here at Watts Guerra.

LIABILITY ON EMPLOYERS IN THE WAKE OF COVID

Employers are now left to make decisions on how to navigate these unprecedented times quickly and safely while ensuring their employees and customers remain safe and healthy.



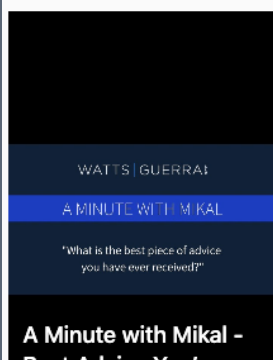
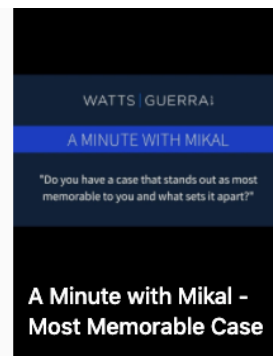
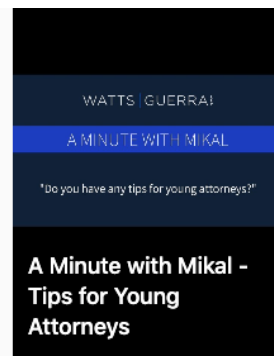
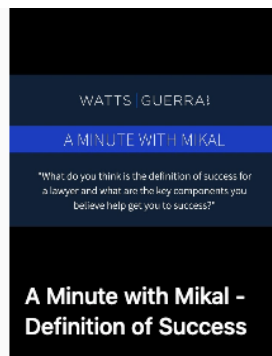
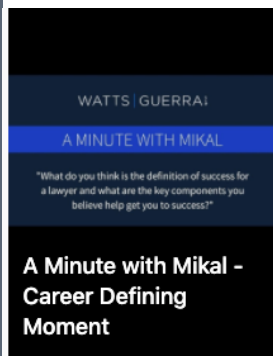
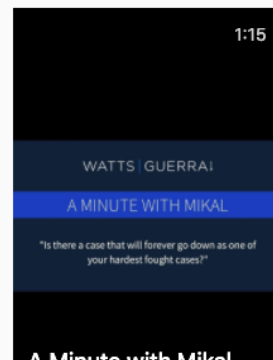
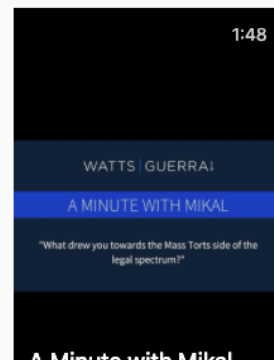
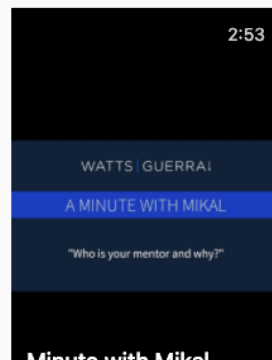
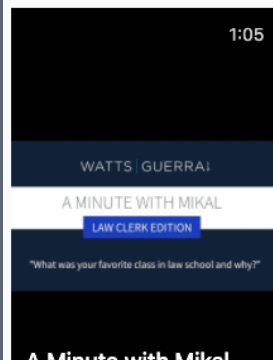
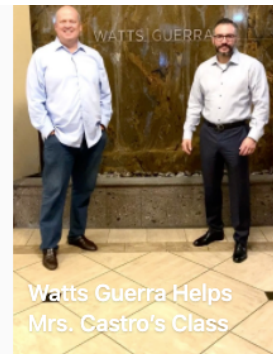
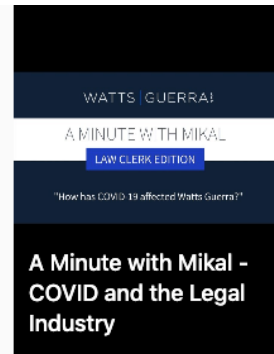
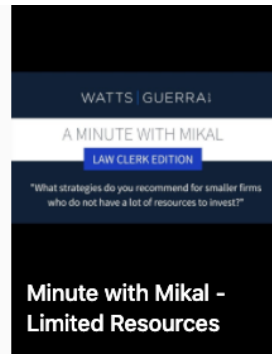
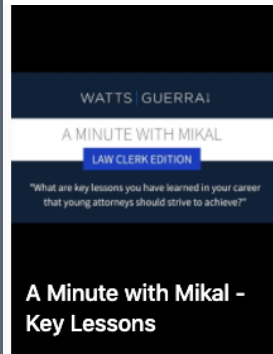
SOCIAL MEDIA TIPS FOR YOUR COURT CASE

We've compiled a list of social media "dos and don'ts", for clients, lawyers, and staff, to help combat the potential of compromised cases.

MIKAL WATTS

AND *action!*

Capital Partner, Mikal Watts, starred in a new video series where he sat down in front of the camera and answered questions. He talked about what factors drove him to become a lawyer, his most memorable case, and even answered questions the law clerks had. You can watch them all now on our social media!



[CLICK HERE TO CATCH UP!](#)

WORDS OF *wisdom*

Capital Partner, Frank Guerra, is extremely passionate about the law clerks (aka grasshoppers). He loves fostering the next generation of lawyers and guiding them along their journey. In fact, he sat down and answered some of their questions they had in a three part blog series linked below.

QUESTIONS ABOUT BEING A **LAWYER**

PART ONE

The topics ranged from areas like starting your own law firm to his favorite class in law school. In this first segment, he is addressing all the questions that were asked regarding his experience with being a lawyer.

PART TWO

Frank dives into his favorite class from law school, a piece of advice he wishes someone told him as a student, and other tips.

QUESTIONS ABOUT **LAW SCHOOL**

MOVERS & *shakers*

Our attorneys are the best (yes, we are biased), however, we are not the only ones who think so. This year many of our attorneys were recognized for going above and beyond in their jobs.

2020 Texas Super Lawyers

Mikal Watts, Frank Guerra, Ed Allred, Bob Brzezinski, Mark Fassold, Mike Murray, and Shalimar Wallis

Top P.I. Lawyers - The Scene S.A.

Mikal Watts, Frank Guerra, Shalimar Wallis, and Bob Brzezinski

2020 Rising Star Lawyer - The Scene S.A.

Jennifer Neal

Best S.A. Lawyers 2020 - The Scene S.A.

Mikal Watts and Frank Guerra

2020 Super Lawyers - Rising Stars

Jorge Mares and Erin Rogiers

MASS TORTS

DEMANDING *justice*

Our Mass Tort Offices in San Antonio and California had a very busy 2020! Here are some highlights of our (GROWING) Mass Tort Team's great work on behalf of our injured clients:



In 2020, we opened 12 new Mass Torts and settled or processed settlements in 11 Mass Torts. Notably, Mikal Watts played a pivotal role in the PG&E Fire Settlement. Approximately 16,000 of our clients are now in the process of being awarded their share of the historic settlement.

On top of that great victory for our Fire clients, we served in leadership roles in several MDLs and actively represented a total of more than 100,000 clients. We were grateful to be able to work with many of our friends who referred cases to us, and co-counseled with us, in representing these deserving clients across all of our Mass Tort dockets. In order to keep up with our fast-paced and expanding practice, we grew our total Mass Tort Team to over 100 amazing and caring men and women. We are looking forward to 2021 and further growth while we continue to work hard for our clients!

FIGHTING THE *good* FIGHT

2020 was full of new cases for our civil litigation side of the business. Even amid the courts shutting down, we were able to help our clients begin their road to recovery one settlement at a time.

Cases our attorneys and staff settled included:

- AUTO ACCIDENTS
- TRUCKING ACCIDENTS
- MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENTS
- CROSSWALK INJURIES
- PRODUCT LIABILITY
- PREMISES LIABILITY
- BREACH OF FIDUCIARY DUTY
- BREACH OF CONTRACT

Our fight for justice was not deterred when the pandemic hit. We made sure that our clients and their needs came first so they could begin their road to recovery. We are going to continue to bring that same ethic into the new year as we take on more complex cases for our clients!



OUR CASES

WE'VE BEEN

busy

In 2020 we worked harder than ever for our clients proving that COVID is not going to deter our spirits. Among the countless personal injury cases we were able to settle outside of the courtroom, we also took on new mass tort cases like JUUL and California Wildfires. It has always been our goal to help our clients speak out against the big corporations.



We hope that this is a fantastic year for everyone and look forward to making an impact in our community and with our clients in 2021!

Find us on:



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www.wattsguerra.com

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