



The Office of Vince Ryan
County Attorney

Contingency Fee Cases filed on behalf of Harris County

1. *Harris County vs. Shell*: The contingency fee agreement was with Ahmad, Zavitsanos, Anaipakos, Alavi & Mensing P.C. for representation in environmental enforcement cases against Shell for air pollution at its Deer Park Refinery. The case settled in mediation without Harris County having to file suit which means we do not have to split the penalty with the State. Settlement was for \$500,000.00 and our share was \$341,000.00. Contingency fee about 30%
2. *Harris County vs. Pasadena Refining*: The contingency fee agreement was with Ahmad, Zavitsanos, Anaipakos, Alavi & Mensing P.C. for representation in environmental enforcement cases against Pasadena Refining for air pollution at the site of the old Crown Central Refinery in Pasadena. The case settled in mediation without Harris County having to file suit. Settlement was for \$750,000.00 and county was paid \$540,000.00.. Contingency fee about 28%
3. *Harris County vs. International Paper*: The contingency fee agreement is with Connelly, Baker & Wotring for representation in suit against International Paper, Waste Management, Inc. and others in a case involving historic contamination of San Jacinto River by waste from paper mill. A lawsuit has been filed and the case is in discovery.
4. *Harris County vs. AT&T*: The contingency fee agreement is with Connelly, Baker & Wotring for representation in suit against AT&T in a case involving multiple leaking underground petroleum storage tanks. A lawsuit has been filed.
5. *Harris County vs. Hallmark Drycleaners*: Contingency fee agreement is with Connelly, Baker & Wotring for representation in suit against Hallmark and others in a case involving leaking underground drycleaning solvent storage tanks. A lawsuit has been filed and the case is in discovery.
6. *Dallas County, Harris County v Merscorp, Inc. and Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.*; Contingency fee agreement is with Malouf & Nockels Llp, a Dallas law firm. Suit pending in Dallas federal court alleging the mortgage industry formed Mortgage Electronic Registration System (MERS) to track their mortgages privately and avoid state requirements that mortgage assignments be filed in county land records.
7. *Harris County Hospital District v Southwestern Bell*; J. Marcus Hill, Thomas R. Bray, and Edward J. Hennessy, to pursue claims against Southwestern Bell Telephone Company and other responsible parties relating to unauthorized municipal charges and associated state and local taxes. Fee is 40% of any recovery.
8. *Harris County v Pasadena Refinery and Shell Oil Company*, Abraham, Watkins, Nichols, Sorrels, Agosto & Friend, to collect payments in lieu of taxes owed pursuant to Foreign Trade Zone agreements. Fee is 33% of the recovery.