



CSOT 2023

The Expert Advocate

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Shellie Stephens



Dr. Stephens is a former intellectual property trial lawyer with a passion for science that is exceeded only by her passion for people and justice.

Before turning to criminal defense and representing individuals up for parole or serving a term of probation or parole, Dr. Stephens' federal practice focused on national and international infringement jury-trial litigation on subjects ranging from Apple's Siri natural language processing, software, pharmaceutical patents aimed at preventing consumer-friendly generic entry to the markets, to invented-in-the-USA hand tools which were reverse-engineered and off-shored for manufacture in violation of the patent owner's rights. Even in IP, her practice was focused on protecting the rights of small-town inventors staring down faceless and unapproachable corporations with epic boundary issues.

After seven years in IP, her youngest brother suffered a TBI. Dr. Stephens, the only sister among four brothers, was able to continue her IP work from his room in Baylor's facility for rehabilitation. This recovery and bonding time with the youngest brother, and all of her brothers, afforded time to contemplate the future and re-imagine her practice.

After observing constitution-curling criminal hearings and sitting second in seventeen criminal trials that first year, she founded her criminal defense firm. She finds striking the similarities between her criminal justice and IP clients: all feel lost and unheard in a system where every buck is passed and their voice is never heard. It's as if they simply don't exist.

Dr. Stephens also now serves as a consultant to trial lawyers, both criminal and civil, providing legal and scientific firepower behind the scenes and always rooting for restoration and justice.