

# STONE HILTON

## STONE HILTON EXPANDS LITIGATION TEAM WITH ADDITION OF CAROLINE MERIDETH AND CODY WATSON

March 18, 2025

**AUSTIN** - Stone Hilton is pleased to announce the addition of Caroline Merideth and Cody Watson to its expanding litigation practice. Ms. Merideth joins the firm as counsel, bringing extensive experience in high-stakes litigation and appellate advocacy, while Mr. Watson, a recent graduate of Harvard Law School, adds a strong background in trial advocacy, legal research, and strategic litigation.

"We are thrilled to welcome both Caroline and Cody to Stone Hilton," said Judd Stone. "Caroline's deep litigation experience and tenacious advocacy, combined with Cody's impressive trial skills and legal acumen, will significantly enhance our ability to serve clients in complex litigation matters."

### **Caroline Merideth – Experienced Litigator and Former Assistant Attorney General**

Before joining Stone Hilton, Caroline Merideth practiced at a prominent litigation boutique, where she defended commercial clients in product liability cases and complex business disputes. Prior to returning to private practice, she served for over three years in the Office of the Attorney General of Texas, representing the State of Texas in both trial and appellate courts. As an Assistant Attorney General, she successfully first-chaired a civil rights trial to a defense verdict, defended the constitutionality of key business and consumer protection statutes, and presented oral argument before the 12th Court of Appeals.

"I am thrilled to join the Stone Hilton firm and collaborate with such a skilled team of litigators," said Caroline Merideth. "Advocating for clients in complex cases with cutting-edge legal issues has been the cornerstone of my career, and I am eager to contribute my experience and commitment to the firm's outstanding litigation practice."

Caroline earned her Juris Doctor from the University of Pennsylvania, where she developed a strong foundation in litigation and appellate advocacy. She began her legal career at a well-regarded Austin criminal law firm, gaining valuable experience in high-pressure litigation. A former Division I rowing athlete, she applies the same determination and strategic mindset to her legal practice.

She is an active member of the State Bar of Texas, the Austin Bar Association, and the Travis County Women Lawyers' Association.

## **Cody Watson – Rising Trial Advocate and Harvard Law Graduate**

A 2023 Harvard Law School graduate, Cody Watson brings a strong background in litigation.

“I am honored to join such an incredibly talented team at Stone Hilton and to have the opportunity to work on and win impactful cases,” said Cody Watson.

Cody’s legal experience includes working as a Trial Lawyer at Ahmad, Zavitsanos & Mensing, where he took his first deposition within a month of being licensed, participated in a high-stakes jury trial where he argued and won in court multiple times, and successfully wrote and argued several motions, including a victorious motion for summary judgment exceeding \$80 million in damages. He also gained valuable experience interning with the U.S. Department of Justice’s Civil Frauds Division in Washington, D.C., assisting in False Claims Act investigations and litigation strategy.

At Harvard, he served on both the Journal on Legislation and Negotiation Law Review. He also co-led the Law and Behavioral Science Student Organization, and was a member of 1<sup>st</sup> Class – First Generation and Low-Income Students at Harvard Law School.

Before attending Harvard, he graduated magna cum laude from the University of Tulsa with a B.A. in Philosophy, along with a Certificate in International Studies and minors in Spanish, Political Science, and Economics. He also studied abroad at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, focusing on international legal perspectives.

Licensed to practice in Texas and Oklahoma, Cody is also admitted to the U.S. District Courts for the Northern, Southern, Eastern, and Western Districts of Texas.

More news to come as Stone Hilton will make additional announcements in the near future.



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