

FORD W. HARMON

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WORK EXPERIENCE

MADDREY PLLC, Dallas, TX

November 2016 – Present

Associate, Internet + Tech, Corporate + Business, and Intellectual Property Law

Internet + Tech Law:

- Provide counsel across a wide spectrum of legal fields to clients with ventures involving blockchain-related technology, including features such as cryptocurrencies, fungible and nonfungible tokens, and “smart contract” implementation.
- Draft technology related documents such as Software Development Agreements, SaaS Provider Agreements, White-Label Software Licenses, Open Source Licenses, and related documents for tech-industry clients.
- Assist clients with legal matters involving other emerging technologies, including AR/VR,

Corporate/Business Law:

- Structure, negotiate, and draft documents related to raising capital for seed and early stage venture capital investments of up to three to five million dollars and counsel client on regulatory compliance issues concerning securities offerings;
- Business structure strategy, optimization, formations, acquisitions, and conversions;
- Data privacy + cybersecurity, e-commerce, and other technology-focused matters; and
- General corporate and business law
- Representative clients include: tech-focused incubator (serving in role equating to external general counsel), desktop + mobile app developers, fintech companies, SaaS companies, and VR/AR developers + hardware companies.

Intellectual Property + Art Law:

- Trademark + copyright registration, maintenance, licensing, collateralization, and development of overall intellectual property portfolio management strategies; and
- Variety of legal subject areas that arise when acting in a role resembling external general counsel for artists and other art-world clients, such as museums, collectors, and relevant trade associations.

REGESTRA, Dallas, TX

May 2018 – Present

Co-founder + Business Strategy Manager

- Serve as a cofounder and strategic business analyst for art-tech startup focused on utilizing emerging technologies, including blockchain, machine learning, and smart contract implementations, to combat art counterfeiting, improve transparency within the art market, and provide a platform for artists to interact with and engage in transactions with collectors directly without the need for gallery representation.
- Provide analysis, research, insight, and guidance on the various sectors of the art world as well as cultivating and maintaining a robust and well-rounded knowledge base on the large number of blockchain-related technology projects that concern intellectual property, unique assets, and/or non-fungible tokens, including accumulating an effective knowledge base regarding the ERC 721 protocol and platforms that provide implementations for NFTs, such as Counter Party and Raven Coin, with a special focus on projects concerning content or creative works;

- Coordinate, in a non-attorney capacity, with outside legal counsel to provide representation for various concerns arising in evolving phases of its business life cycle as well as development of overall technology; and serve as a liaison to both the blockchain and art communities.

SELECTED PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

The Honorable Harlin D. Hale, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Northern District of Texas

- *Judicial Extern*, Fall 2014.

The Honorable Roy Moore, 245th District Court, Houston, TX

- *Judicial Intern*, Summer 2014.

EDUCATION + TRAINING

SMU Dedman School of Law, Dallas, TX

May 2016

Juris Doctor, *Cum Laude*

- Dean's Scholarship, *Recipient*.
- Regular Member of Dean's List.
- Small Business & Trademark Clinic, *Student Attorney, Clinic Chief*: 2015 – 2016.

SMU-in-Oxford, Summer Abroad, University College, Oxford, England

Summer 2015

Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA

May 2013

B.S. in Business with a Concentration in Entrepreneurial Management

- Recipient of LSU National Scholars Award, a four-year, full-tuition scholarship for nonresidents of Louisiana based on academic achievement.
- Regular Member of Dean's List.

PRESENTATIONS + SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

An Introduction to ERC 721, Dallas, TX

October 27, 2018

- *Presenter*, Legal Hackers - Dallas Chapter.

ERC 884 Panel Discussion, Dallas, TX

October 24, 2018

- *Moderator*, North Texas Blockchain Alliance.

New Kids on The Blockchain Podcast: Art + Blockchain, Dallas, TX

Fall 2018

- *Interview Guest*, Grey, Inc.

Tech Talk: Webinar: Blockchain + Photography

Fall 2018

- *Presenter*, ASMP – the American Society of Media Photographers.
- <https://www.asmp.org/professional-development/webinars/>.

Intangible Assets to Secure Financing: Using Intellectual Property as Collateral

May 25, 2018

- *Online CLE Presenter*, Clear Law Institute.
- <https://clearlawinstitute.com/shop/webinars/intangible-assets-to-secure-financing-using-intellectual-property-as-collateral/>.

Law Firms' Acceptance of Cryptocurrency as Payment: Practical and Ethical Considerations.

May 23, 2018

- *Online CLE Presenter*, Clear Law Institute.
- <https://clearlawinstitute.com/shop/webinars/law-firms-acceptance-of-cryptocurrency-as-payment-practical-and-ethical-considerations/>.

Bitcoin and Blockchain: What Practitioners Need to Know

April 26, 2018

- *Online CLE Presenter*, Clear Law Institute.
- <https://clearlawinstitute.com/shop/webinars/bitcoin-and-blockchain-what-practitioners-need-to-know/>.

An Introduction to Bitcoin, Blockchain, and Cryptocurrency Technologies, Houston, TX

February 2018

- *Presenter*, **Hines Securities 2018 Investment Forum** (offered as Continuing Professional Education Credit for CPA License Maintenance Requirements).

Issues Related to Accepting Payment in Cryptocurrency, Houston, TX

February 2018

- *Presenter*, Private Presentation for Hines Limited Partnership.

PUBLISHED WORKS

Delaware's Blockchain Initiative: The "First State's" Project to Ensure Blockchain-Based Securities Do Not Displace It as the Center of U.S. Corporate Law.

- American Bar Association, Young Lawyers Division – Corporate Counsel Committee Newsletter, Winter 2018.

A General Overview of Copyright Law for the General Business Practitioner.

American Bar Association, Young Lawyers Division – Business Law Committee Newsletter, Winter 2018.

Copyright's Small Claims Court May Be Arriving Soon: An Introduction to the CASE Act of 2017.

- American Bar Association, Young Lawyers Division – Intellectual Property Committee Newsletter, January 2018.

Blockchain's Definitional Problem: Analyzing the Role of Imprecise Terminology as a Source of Blockchain-Related Confusion.

- American Bar Association, Young Lawyers Division – Corporate Counsel Committee Newsletter, Summer 2017.

A Catalyst for Copyright: How Distributed Ledger Technology Is Being Utilized to Move Copyright Forward.

- American Bar Association, Young Lawyers Division – Intellectual Property Committee Newsletter, Fall 2017.

The Texas Homestead Takes Its Licks in Bankruptcy (Co-Author).

- Presented to the Dallas Bar Association on Nov. 7, 2014, by the Hon. Harlin D. Hale, U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of Texas.

SELECTED BLOG POSTS + OTHER PUBLICATIONS

LLC Taxation Overview.

- Maddrey PLLC Blog, November 2018, <https://maddreypllc.com/llc-taxation-overview/>.

The Emergence of Art-Tech Startups.

- Maddrey PLLC Blog, September 2018.
- <https://maddreypllc.com/the-emergence-of-art-tech-startups/>.

Annual Reports on the Art Market Evidence Excitement About Blockchain's Potential.

- Regestra Medium Page, July 16, 2018.
- <https://medium.com/@REGESTRA/the-annual-reports-on-the-art-market-evidence-excitement-about-blockchains-potential-a5acfd2065ee>.

Veteran-Owned Businesses Formed in Texas Under Senate Bill 1049: A Census.

- Maddrey PLLC Blog, November 2017.
- <https://maddreypllc.com/veteran-owned-businesses-formed-in-texas-under-senate-bill-1049-a-census/>.

MEMBERSHIPS, AFFILIATIONS & AWARDS

Leadership Positions:

- *Chair, Business Law Committee* (10,000+ attorney members), American Bar Association-Young Lawyers Division, *September 2018 – Present*.
- *Co-Host, Blockchain + Law Working Group*, North Texas Blockchain Alliance, *August 2018 – Present*.
- *Co-Chair*, Lawyers Against Domestic Violence Committee, Dallas Association of Young Lawyers, *January 2018 – Present*.
- *Co-Chair*, Aid to the Homeless Committee, *January 2018 – January 2019*.
- *Vice Chair*, Corporate Counsel Committee, American Bar Association-Young Lawyers Division, *August 2017 – July 2018*.
- *Board Trustee*, The Writer's Garret, *Summer 2017 – Present*; SMU Media Corporation, *2015 – 2016*.

Member in Good Standing:

- Dallas Bar Association; Dallas Association of Young Lawyers; Texas State Bar; Texas Bar College; American Bar Association;

Other Organizations:

- *Volunteer*, Intellectual Property Committee, **The Accord Project**.
- *Volunteer*, Texas Accountants and Lawyers for the Arts.
- *Fellow*, Dallas Association of Young Lawyers Foundation.

Awards/Recognition

- **Selected as a Super Lawyers' Rising Star in Texas for Business/Corporate Law, 2019.**
- Named "*One to Watch*" by Dallas Association of Young Lawyers, January 2018.
- Selected to be featured in the "*Spotlight on a New Bar College Member*" by the Texas Bar College, June 2018.
- Selected to be featured in the "*Member Spotlight*" by the American Bar Association – Young Lawyers Division, Business Law Committee, December 2017.

SELECTED PRESS QUOTES/MENTIONS

What Happens to Your Business if Something Happens to You?

- Alex Graaff, NFIB.com, August 28, 2018.
- <https://www.nfib.com/content/resources/insurance/what-happens-to-your-business-if-something-happens-to-you/>.

Guide to Starting a Business Partnership.

- Jamie Friedlander, Lendingtree.com, April 16, 2018.
- <https://www.lendingtree.com/business/starting-business-partnership/>.

Thinking of Starting an LLC? Listen to These 7 Experts First.

- Jonathan Long, Blerp.com, March 11, 2018.
- <https://www.blerrp.com/blog/thinking-of-starting-an-llc-listen-to-these-7-experts-first/>.