Litigator Sean Whyte Joins Gardere Wynne Sewell

Litigator **Sean M. Whyte** has joined **Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP** as a partner in the firm's Dallas office. He joins the firm from Alston & Bird, where he has practiced since 2011.

In a release, the firm said Whyte's litigation practice includes complex commercial litigation, consumer class actions and products liability. He has practiced before state and federal courts, with class-action experience that includes defending clients in cases involving Internet sales practices, consumer fraud and other federal statutes. He has also represented clients in regulatory and government investigative matters involving federal agencies, including the U.S. Department of Energy and the Federal Trade Commission.

"Sean's versatile expertise will further allow our litigation group to offer the best solutions for our clients," says Gardere Chair **Holland N. O'Neil**. "Our litigation partners are among the most respected in their field, and we are honored to have Sean join our team."

While at Alston & Bird, Whyte worked on litigation that resulted in a victory in the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals in the first case to consider Texas' Anti-SLAPP statute. He also helped win the first dismissal of a federal action under the Texas Health and Safety Code statute granting limited immunity to telecommunication providers related to 911 calls. He began his legal career at Jones Day in 2004 where he assisted on litigation resulting from Hurricane Katrina and the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

Whyte received a juris doctor degree from The University of Texas School of Law in 2004, where he was an articles editor for the Texas Law Review. He completed course work for a

doctorate degree in applied philosophy at Bowling Green State University and obtained a master's degree from the same school in applied philosophy in 1996. He also earned his bachelor's degree in philosophy in 1994 at West Virginia University. Prior to law school, Whyte served as a senior lecturer and adjunct philosophy instructor at universities in Ohio and Michigan.

In addition to his legal practice, Whyte serves as the co-vice chair of the Law Day Committee for the Dallas Bar Association. In 2014, he was named to the Texas Rising Stars list for his work in business litigation, and he was awarded *Pro Bono* Lawyer of the Year by the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program in 2010.

"It is an honor to join Gardere's well-known and respected litigation practice," Whyte said. "I am proud to be joining this exceptional group of professionals."