

## **Education**

J.D., with Highest Honors, 1982.  
South Texas College of Law

B.B.A., University of Texas at  
Austin, 1979.

## **Court Admissions**

State Bar of Texas

The U.S. Supreme Court

The United States District Court  
for the Southern, Northern,  
Eastern and Western Districts of  
Texas

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the  
Fourth and Fifth Circuits

## **Bar Associations**

American Bar Association

State Bar of Texas

Houston Bar Association

Harris County Criminal Lawyers  
Association

Texas Criminal Lawyers  
Association

National Association of Criminal  
Defense Lawyers

# **Dan Cogdell**

## **Cogdell Law Firm**

### **Founder**

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**Summary**-Dan Cogdell has been trial counsel in more than 300 jury trials in over sixteen different States. His experience includes verdicts of “Not Guilty” in the Enron matter, the Branch Davidian Trial, the trial of alternative cancer treatment physician Dr. Stanislaw Burzynski. He likewise obtained the acquittal of Judge John Peavy, Jr. in the Houston City Hall Scandal case. His work has been featured in two documentaries, including a 6 part series airing next year focusing on his obtaining an acquittal for Clive Doyle in the Branch Davidian trial. Cogdell will be portrayed by actor Giovanni Ribisi in the upcoming Paramount series “Waco, The Aftermath” which will air in early 2023.

Mr. Cogdell’s success in a multitude of Courtrooms across the Country has been well documented. His peers have recognized him as one of the “Best Lawyers In America” since 1996. He has been recognized as a “Super Lawyer” for over a decade. The Harris County Criminal Lawyers Association voted him as “Lawyer of the Year.” He is a Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers and is consistently rated as one of the top White Collar Criminal Defense lawyers in the Country.

## **Representative Matters**

**Enron.** Mr. Cogdell obtained the only acquittal in any of the Enron related trials. He successfully represented Sheila Kahanek in the Enron-Merrill Lynch Trial and obtained the sole acquittal in that (or any other) Enron trial.

**Continental Savings Trial** Mr. Cogdell successfully represented Carroll Kelly, the founder and CFO of Continental Savings. Mr. Kelly was charged with Bank Fraud, Mail Fraud, Wire Fraud and Conspiracy. He was acquitted of all charges.

**Oxford Funding Trial** Mr. Cogdell was the lead lawyer in that matter and successfully represented Larry Ramming in the United States of America v. Ramming, et al, After a month in trial, all charges were dismissed after the United States District Judge Kenneth Hoyt ruled that the prosecution had engaged in prosecutorial misconduct and dismissed all the charges against all the defendants. The prosecutor in that case was held in contempt for her misconduct.

**Houston City Hall Scandal Case** Cogdell successfully obtained an acquittal for retired state District Judge and Houston City Council member John H. Peavy. Cogdell's client was charged with Conspiracy, Obstruction Of Justice, Bribery and Money Laundering. Peavy was ultimately acquitted of all charges.

**Operation Lightning Strike (NASA Sting)** Mr. Cogdell's client in this matter was Dan Stinger. Mr. Stinger's case was dismissed mid-trial by the Federal Judge who ruled that there was insufficient evidence against him following nearly three weeks of testimony by a myriad of Government witness. Mr. Stinger had been charged with Government Fraud, Mail Fraud, Wire Fraud and Conspiracy.

**Texas Slave Ranch Case** Early in his career, Cogdell was co-counsel (along with his mentor Richard "Racehorse" Haynes) for Walter Wesley Ellebracht, Junior. Cogdell's client was charged with Engaging in Organized Criminal Activity (including Murder, Kidnapping, Torture and Rape). In that trial, Cogdell (literally) shocked himself with a Cattle Prod in front of the jury during the cross examination of the State's Medical Examiner. That same witness had earlier testified that shocking a person with the cattle prod would cause a heart attack. The jury ultimately granted Cogdell's client probation. Cogdell's role in this trial is likewise the subject of a documentary film-which is scheduled to air sometime in the second quarter of 2023.

**Dr. James Ghadiali** Charged with Insurance Fraud, Medicare Fraud, Wire Fraud and Conspiracy, Cogdell's client was fully exonerated after a three-week trial. During the cross examination of the Government's primary witness, Cogdell was able to prove that the testimony of this witness was not only factually suspect but legally inaccurate.

**Ronald Johnson** Charged with the murder of a Rice University basketball player and the aggravated assault of his twin brother in College Station, Texas. Johnson, a Marine veteran and Purple Heart decorated soldier hired Cogdell to defend him in this College Station Trial. Following a two week trial, Johnson was acquitted of all charges.

**Alternative Cancer Physician Stanislaw Burzynski** Charged with 41 Counts of Contempt as well as Fraud, Cogdell (along with Mike Ramsey and John Ackermann) secured his client's

acquittal after nearly a month in trial. Burzynski had engaged in a decade long fight with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in his belief that his treatment protocol was both necessary and life-saving.

**Branch Davidian Trial** Following a botched raid by the ATF outside of Waco, Texas at the compound of the followers of David Koresh, a 51 day standoff ensued between the FBI and the Branch Davidians. On the 51<sup>st</sup> day (following the insertion of CS gas by government agents and the intrusion of tanks into the home), a massive fire erupted. Approximately 90 people lost their lives in the fire. Cogdell represented Clive Doyle. Like the others, Doyle was charged with Conspiracy, Murder and Attempted Murder of Federal Law Enforcement Officers. He was found “Not Guilty” after a month long trial.

**Patti LaBelle Bodyguard Trial** Cogdell successfully obtained a “Not Guilty” for Efrem Holmes, a bodyguard for musical legend Patti LaBelle. Holmes was charged following an altercation (caught on videotape) with a West Point Cadet at Intercontinental Airport in Houston. Holmes was acquitted of all charges following his trial.

**New Orleans Water Treatment Corruption Trial** Sal Anzelmo was a former New Orleans City Attorney who was charged with Bribery, Corruption and False Statement to a Law Enforcement Agent in connection with the attempted construction of a Water Treatment Facility outside of New Orleans. Anzelmo was found “Not Guilty” of all charges.

**DPS Narcotics Enforcement Chief Trial** Sgt. Robert Nesterhoff was a career law enforcement agent with the Texas Department of Public Safety. At the time of his arrest, he was the head of the DPS Narcotics Section. Following his testimony (as a Defense Witness) at a Grand Jury and Trial in Florida, Nesterhoff was charged with Conspiracy, Perjury and Obstruction of Justice. He prevailed at trial and was acquitted of all charges.

**Planned Parenthood** Defendant Susan Merritt was charged with falsifying government documents in Harris County District Court. Cogdell secured a dismissal of all charges.

**Judge William Ralph “Layne” Walker** Charged in Jefferson County District Court with Abuse of Official Capacity, Cogdell likewise secured a dismissal of all charges against Judge Walker.

**Attorney General Ken Paxton.** AG Paxton is charged with the fraudulent selling of securities and failing to register as an investment broker. Cogdell is lead counsel on the this matter which is currently pending in Harris County, Texas.

**Michael Keough** Keough was head of logistics for Arkema Chemical company when the Arkema plant in Crosby Texas blew up during Hurricane Harvey. Keough was charged with the reckless assault of a Peace Officer. Cogdell secured a dismissal of all charges against Keough after a six month trial in Houston, Texas.

**Impeachment Trial of AG Ken Paxton** Dan was the lead criminal defense lawyer for AG Paxton in the historic Impeachment Trial of Paxton before the Texas State Senate in the Fall of 2023. Paxton was found “Not Guilty” of all Articles of Impeachment and was reinstated to his office.

## **Professional and Community Awards**

Fellow, American College of Trial Lawyers

Harris County Criminal Lawyers Association, Lawyer of The Year

Best White Collar Law Firm, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015

Impact Alumni Of The Year, South Texas College of Law, 2014

Named by his peers to “Best Lawyers In America” each year since 1996

Named “Super Lawyer” by his peers each year since 2003

## **Speaking Engagements**

Mr. Cogdell is a frequent lecturer and speaker. He has lectured and spoken for a variety of organizations and institutions including:

The State Bar of Texas

Houston Bar Association

Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association

The National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

Harris County Criminal Lawyers Association

Dallas County Bar Association

South Texas College of Law

University of Houston Law Center

Texas Tech School of Law

University of Texas School of Law

Harvard Law School

AT&T Legal Conference, Dallas, Texas

## **Public Appearances and Media**

Mr. Cogdell has made multiple appearances in the local, national and worldwide media including:

NBC Nightly News

Dateline NBC

Forty Eight Hours

Good Morning America

The Today Show

ABC Nightly News

CBS Nightly News

BBC Nightly News