

**STERLING ELZA**  
**Brown, Dean, Proctor & Howell, LLP**

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**Biography:**

Since joining Brown Dean out of law school in 2000, Sterling Elza has had the privilege of representing clients in the areas of insurance coverage, insurance fraud/bad faith, and insurance defense. In addition, Mr. Elza represents individuals and companies in business and commercial disputes arising out of business relationships, with an emphasis on construction matters.

Based out of Brown Dean's Fort Worth and Houston offices, Mr. Elza represents his clients in state and federal courts throughout Texas and Arkansas. Sterling was born and raised in Amarillo, Texas. After seven years in Houston for school, he began working for Brown Dean and made Fort Worth his home. In 2016, he began to split his time between the Fort Worth and Houston offices.

**Education:**

Rice University, Houston, Texas

- Bachelor of Arts, Political Science 1997
- Southwest Conference Commissioner's Honor Roll
- Football Team – 1993-1996

University of Houston Law Center – Houston, Texas

- Juris Doctorate 2000
- Cum Laude
- President and Member - Office of Ombudsmen 1998 - 2000
- Secretary and Representative - Student Bar Association 1997 - 2000

**Professional Licenses:**

Admitted to the State Bar of Texas – 2000

Admitted to the State Bar of Arkansas – 2010

Admitted to practice in the following Federal Courts:

- Northern District of Texas – 2002
- Eastern District of Texas – 2009
- Western District of Texas – 2009
- Southern District of Texas – 2009
- Western District of Arkansas – 2013
- Eastern District of Arkansas – 2013

### **Legal Honors and Activities:**

Brown, Dean, Proctor & Howell, LLP – Partner

- Chair, Insurance Section

Professional Affiliations and Honors:

- State Bar of Texas – Insurance Section
- Texas Bar Foundation – Life Fellow
- Top Attorneys in Tarrant County, *Fort Worth Texas Magazine* 2013 - 2016
- Texas Rising Star, *Texas Monthly Magazine* 2008 – 2011
- Eldon Mahon Inn of Court – Barrister 2007 - 2010, Associate 2001 - 2002

### **Presentations and Publications:**

Claims Handling – Best Practices – Liberty Mutual Insurance 2009

- First Party Claims Handling, Bad Faith, and Third Party Duty to Defend

Claims Handling – Best Practices – FM Global Insurance 2008

- First Party Claims Handling, Bad Faith, and Third Party Duty to Defend

Claims Handling – Best Practices – State Auto/Beacon Insurance 2008

- First Party Claims Handling, Bad Faith, and Third Party Duty to Defend

Successful Collections and 50 State Lien Law – Seminar 2011

- Perfecting Mechanic's Liens to Secure Payment

### **Representative Cases:**

*Carter v State Auto Property & Casualty Insurance Company*, 2016 WL 4401292 (W.D. Texas – Waco Division 2016) (summary judgment dismissing insured's claims for breach of contract and bad faith following appraisal)

*Spurlock v Beacon Lloyds Insurance Company, et al.*, 494 S.W.3d 148 (Tex. App. – Eastland 2015, pet. denied) (affirming summary judgment dismissing insured's claims for breach of contract based on policy language limiting coverage to the premises following death of the insured)

*Fulton v Beacon National Insurance Company*, 2012 Ark. App. 320, 416 S.W.3d 759 (2012) (affirming summary judgment dismissing insured's claims for breach of contract and bad faith based on policy language requiring insured to protect vacant property)

### **Community Activities:**

RAVA – Volunteer with Rice Admissions Office Interviewing Prospective Students

Ballet Concerto – Past President

Sanders Education Foundation – Board of Directors

Trinity Episcopal Church – Member