

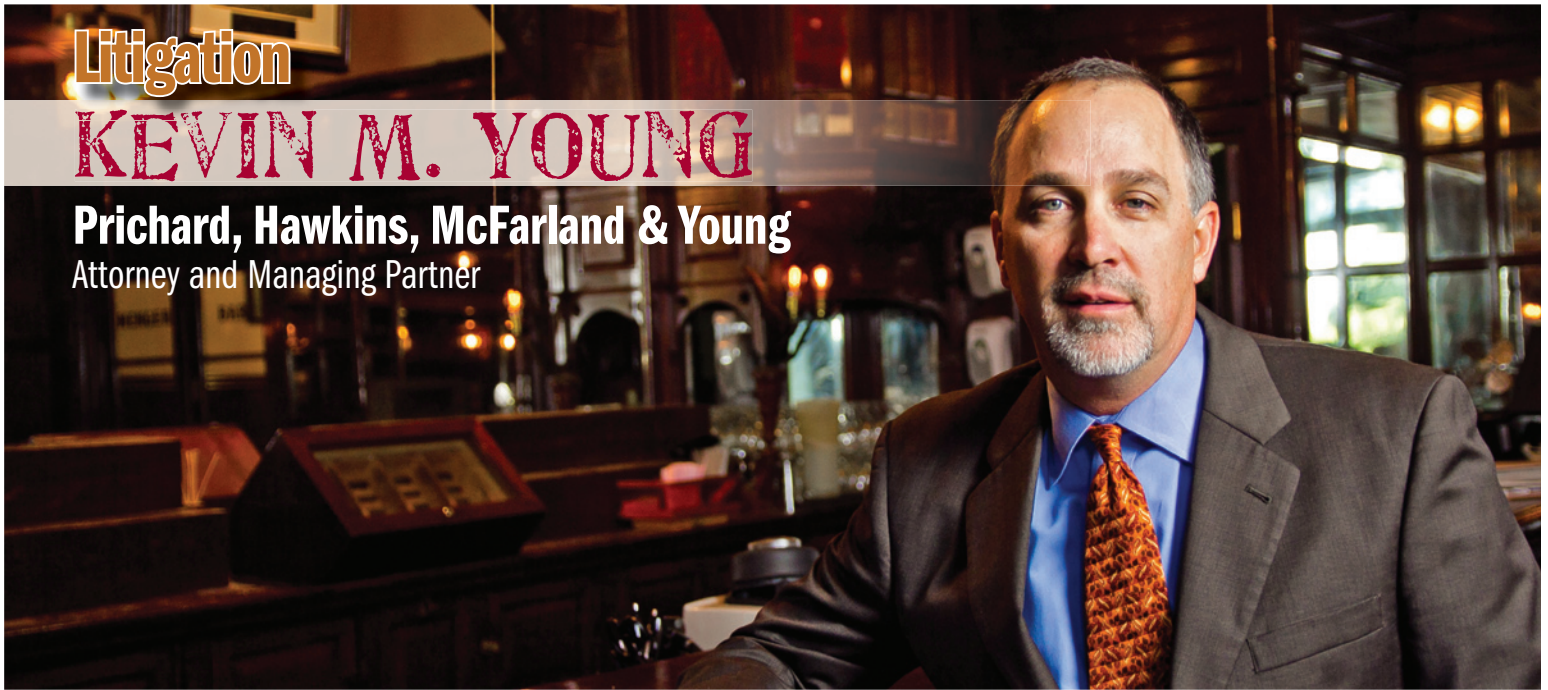


## 2011 OUTSTANDING LAWYER AWARDS

### Litigation

## KEVIN M. YOUNG

**Prichard, Hawkins, McFarland & Young**  
Attorney and Managing Partner



By Randy Lankford

**B**efore going to law school, Kevin Young almost accidentally became an accountant. He was well on the way to earning his accounting degree at Abilene Christian University when he realized he was in the wrong field.

"I worked the summer before my senior year in college auditing a hospital. It was the worst job of my life. I thought I'd made a terrible mistake," Young says. "I came back to college for my senior year wondering what in the world I was going to do. One of my roommates had the law school application test (LSAT) sitting on the counter. And I thought: 'That's it. I forgot I was going to be a lawyer.'"

What Young had forgotten was the impression Al Pacino had made on him starring in the movie "And Justice For All."

"I saw that movie in high school in 1979 while my dad was going through a job transition and thought: Being a lawyer would give me a steady career," Young says. "I can't say I was really committed to becoming an attorney then, but that was the first time I thought about it. If I hadn't become a lawyer, I would have probably been a teacher or a coach."

Today, the San Angelo native has tried more than 50 cases to verdict and has secured several multimillion dollar settlements for clients. At home, he and his wife have four children, the couple were instrumental in helping create The Geneva School of Boerne.

As managing partner of Prichard, Hawkins, McFarland and Young, Young has been a leader in partnering with PHMY clients in creative fee arrangements tailored to suit the unique goals of each client.

"I believe Kevin's moral compass and honesty always steer him on the right path when representing a client," Roger Kirstein, shareholder with Langley & Banack Inc. writes in a nomination for Young. "While the reputation of lawyers sometimes takes a beating, it is people like Kevin who help give respectability to the profession."

As it turns out, Young is confident he made the right career choice. "I meet interesting people, faceoff against great lawyers and I learn about fascinating things. One day I'm fighting Medicaid fraud against lawyers from New York and D.C., the next I'm working on legal issues surrounding the world's first organ donor bank facility."

**Age:** 48

**Hometown:** San Angelo, Texas (raised in Colorado)

**Family:** Married to Cindy for more than 18 years; four children, ages 16, 13, 10, 9

**High school:** San Angelo Central

**First job ever:** Mowing yards (age 11). I have consistently held a job since age 12, except first semester of college and first semester of law school.

**Higher Ed Degrees:** B.B.A. in accounting from Abilene Christian University (1986); J.D. Texas Tech Law School (1988)

**Moment you realized you wanted to be a lawyer:** In high school, I saw Al Pacino in "And Justice For All" (1979) at a time when my father was going through job transitions. I realized I needed a stable career and the courtroom seemed exciting.

**When did you hit your stride?** In 2004, after 16 years of practice and 5 years in my own law firm, my partners and I agreed that I should move full time into business and construction litigation. So, I turned over management of PHMY's biggest and oldest client (General Motors) and began to invest more in professional relationships and focus on commercial litigation. I was experienced and confident, and that led to some big settlements and trials starting in 2006. I loved it.

**What gets you out of bed in the morning?** If "variety is the spice of life," that explains why I love my job and my partners. One day, I am counseling a close friend and helping her walk through a multi-million dollar divorce, or I am defending

a company that makes cranes in a catastrophic injury case in California courts; or I am the court-appointed administrator tracking down assets of a million-dollar estate; or — on my favorite days — I am in boots and jeans litigating large real estate disputes in the Hill Country.

**What keeps you up at night?** Honestly, it isn't my cases or my legal work. My partners and my staff will tell you I work hard, but then I set it to the side and enjoy my family. What keeps me up is wondering whether I am a good enough parent, husband or friend.

**Accomplishment most proud of:** My involvement as a part of the trial team in the case of State of Texas v. Actavis may be my most significant legal accomplishment. This was the first trial in the country in which private lawyers and government lawyers teamed up against "big pharma" to combat Medicaid fraud. The result was a \$170 million verdict in the first case tried under the Texas Medicaid Fraud Prevention Act, and it helped us secure several multi-million dollar settlements from other pharmaceutical manufacturers — returning hundreds of millions of dollars to the taxpayers.

**Biggest mistake or learning experience:** As a baby lawyer, I placed my secretary's year-end evaluation in a place where she could read it. I hadn't talked to her about my observations, and this was a big mistake. I learned to be up front and to be careful what you write about others.

**Mentor(s):** In my early years, Lamont Jefferson; and in my later years, David Prichard. These men taught me more than anyone else about being a good lawyer.

**RANDY LANKFORD** is a San Antonio freelance writer.