

# Lehtola & Cannatti, PLLC

## Lawyers Who Know Business

*A Texas bank seizes funds deposited for a minor to cover his mother's unpaid loan. After the minor becomes an adult, he sues to recoup the money. The legal issues are complex and challenging. The bank turns to the law firm of Lehtola & Cannatti. The bank prevails.*

*Employees of a company are at odds with their employer over promises allegedly made years earlier. After languishing at another law firm for five years, the case transfers to Lehtola & Cannatti and is quickly resolved.*



*A startup company, sued for allegedly violating a non-compete agreement — its survival on the line — entrusts the matter to Lehtola & Cannatti. The firm convinces the court that the non-compete is unfair and unenforceable. The new company returns to business.*

Lehtola & Cannatti helps businesses of all sizes resolve complex legal disputes, often against larger adversaries. It was among the first woman-owned firms in Dallas to handle legal work for Fortune 500 clients.

"We are a dynamic firm with influence and position beyond our size," says Patricia Lehtola, managing partner and founder. "Opponents often underestimate us because they don't know the kinds of cases we handle. We surprise them with our drive, willingness to go to the mat and our rate of success."

Lehtola hails from four generations of doctors and lawyers. After attending college at the University of Notre Dame and then Duke

University School of Law, she joined a large firm and later an aviation boutique, where she was the first female partner. It was there that Lehtola met partner Susan Travis, who is also highly credentialed. Both are AV® Preeminent™ rated by Martindale-Hubbell®.

In 1995, Lehtola decided to leave her partnership to launch her own firm, Lehtola & Associates. She recalls, "It was like jumping out of an airplane and realizing, this is risky but so freeing."

Phillip Cannatti, a Notre Dame aerospace engineer, had worked with Lehtola at several firms. They formed Lehtola & Cannatti in 2009. Travis, herself a maverick, as she is an airplane pilot and scuba diver, joined them the following year.

"Patricia treats her clients' businesses as if they were her own. Their business concerns are her concerns," Cannatti says. "We all share this philosophy and thus, it's easier to make strategic decisions for our clients."

These three partners came together with a vision to provide more personalized, efficient, cost-effective service to their diverse clientele, including those in the banking, railroad, insurance and health care industries. Within the first year of forming Lehtola & Cannatti, the firm's attorneys tried several jury trials, each with millions of dollars at stake. Lehtola has tried more than 30 complex cases in her career and has only lost twice. A recognized expert in the financial arena, she is an arbitrator, a contributing author of *Banking and Financing Litigation Strategies* (Aspatore Books, 2009), and has handled several precedent-setting cases at both the state and federal levels.

"This is a time of unprecedented regulations and ever-changing case law, especially in the world of finance," Lehtola says. "We monitor legislative issues and case law throughout the country. If a court in one state declares something invalid, it can change a company's whole way of doing business. We stay on top of changes for our clients and fight for their interests when necessary."



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— Patricia Lehtola  
Managing Partner & Founder

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*Certified by The National Association of Minority & Women Owned Law Firms (NAMWOLF)*

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