



→ Erinn M. Contreras

Partner

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Erinn Contreras is a partner in the Business Trial Practice Group in the firm's San Francisco office, leader of the firm's Multifamily Housing Team, and a member of the *Chambers*-ranked Construction Team.

Areas of Practice

Erinn is a seasoned construction and real estate attorney who represents owners, developers, general contractors, subcontractors and construction lenders in all stages of construction projects. She negotiates and drafts a variety of construction contracts, including design-build contracts, EPC contracts, professional/consultant agreements and modified AIA contracts. Erinn counsels clients on issues that arise during the course of construction, including cost overruns, delays, breach of contract and other issues.

Erinn has extensive experience litigating construction-related claims, including construction defect, delay, cost overruns, mechanic's liens, quiet title and products liability. She works collaboratively with clients, consultants, expert witnesses and opposing parties to resolve disputes economically and efficiently. When early resolution is not possible, she vigorously litigates on behalf of her clients before judges and arbitrators.

In addition to her construction and real estate practice, Erinn also has ample employment-related experience, consisting of both employer counseling and employment litigation. She regularly advises employers on a wide array of employment issues, including employee terminations, wage and hour compliance, leaves of absence and requests for accommodation. Erinn has significant experience defending employers against claims for wrongful termination, discrimination, harassment and retaliation. She recently obtained a fully-favorable ruling on behalf of a Fortune 500 company accused of discrimination following a one-week arbitration.

Honors

Northern California Rising Stars 2013-2020

Recommended Attorney - Construction, *Legal 500*, 2020

Experience

- Representing institutional owner of large, multi-family projects in construction defect cases against developer, general contractor and subcontractors, and successfully achieved global settlements with all parties and their insurance carriers.
- Obtaining a substantial judgment on behalf of an institutional owner in a construction defect trial.

- Representing data center company in dispute involving defective products.
- Representing products manufacturer in litigation arising from alleged defects of products.
- Representing subcontractor in prosecuting mechanic's lien claims and defending delay claims.
- Representing developer and owner in negotiating and drafting construction contracts.
- Representing developer and owner in disputes with general contractor over delays, cost overruns and workmanship.
- Representing general contractor on delays, cost overruns and other issues during course of construction project.
- Advising property owner regarding water intrusion issues and best practices in managing existing tenants.
- Represent homeowners of multi-million dollar homes in construction defect litigation.
- Counseling real estate and construction company in employment-related issues.
- Obtaining a judgment on behalf of a property owner in an action against a tenant.
- Procuring a fully-favorable verdict on behalf of a Fortune 500 company accused of discrimination following a one-week arbitration.
- Obtaining summary judgment in favor of an employer in a disability discrimination case.

Articles

Construction & Infrastructure Law Blog Posts

- "California Construction in the Time of Covid-19," March 24, 2020
- United Riggers & Erectors, Inc. v. Coast Iron & Steel Co." rel="noopener noreferrer" href="https://www.constructionandinfrastructurelawblog.com/2018/05/articles/construction-claims-and-litigation/united-riggers-coast-iron/">"It's All a Matter of [Statutory] Construction: Supreme Court Narrowly Interprets the Good Faith Dispute Exception to Prompt Payment Requirements in *United Riggers & Erectors, Inc. v. Coast Iron & Steel Co.*" May 16, 2018
- "'Good Faith' May Not Be Good Enough: California Supreme Court to Decide When General Contractors Can Withhold Retention," March 7, 2018

Media Mentions

Ballot Measures Construction Attys Should Know About
Law360, 11.08.2018

Memberships

Board Member, UCLA Law Women LEAD; Co-Chair, Local Events Committee

Board Member, National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC), San Francisco Chapter

Member, NAIOP's San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

Member, NAIOP's 2015-2016 Young Professionals Group

Practices

Construction
Labor and Employment
Litigation
Real Estate and Land Use

Industries

Construction
Hospitality
Multifamily Housing

Education

J.D., University of California, Los Angeles
B.A., Westminster College

Admissions

California
U.S. Court for the Ninth Circuit
U.S. District Court, Central District of California
U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California
U.S. District Court, Northern District, of California