

## J. Michael Schiff

### Senior Counsel

#### PRACTICE EMPHASIS:

Construction; Labor and Employment; Commercial Litigation

#### EDUCATION:

J.D., University of Houston Law Center, 2010

B.A., Texas State University, 2004

#### ADMITTED:

State Bar of Texas

#### COURT ADMISSIONS:

U.S. District Court, Southern District of Texas



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#### **Profile:**

Michael Schiff's practice focuses on both construction litigation and alternative dispute resolution, in which he represents general contractors, subcontractors, suppliers and owners in a variety of construction related disputes, as well as labor and employment litigation.

#### **Representative Experience:**

- Extensive experience both defending and litigating mechanic and materialman's liens for vendors, subcontractors and general contractors under applicable Texas law
- Aggressively litigated a \$360,000.00 claim for an electrical materials vendor which led to a prompt negotiated settlement for the full amount of the claim plus prompt pay interest
- Defended against a temporary restraining order on a suit for declaratory relief to rescind a non-competition agreement, ultimately settling the suit for a de minimis amount and maintaining employer protections in the agreement
- Won at trial as co-chair representing employer in pursuit of claims for breach of a non-competition agreement and tortious interference with contract, obtaining a judgment of \$100,000
- Represented employer, eliminated defensive claim and associated legal fees of \$80,000 through summary judgment in a non-compete and tortious interference dispute
- Obtained \$150,000 in damages, fees and interest on behalf of a general contractor at mediation of a contractual indemnity dispute with the subcontractor
- Defended a residential general contractor at trial in a commercial lease dispute resulting in no liability for the contractor and zero damages for the plaintiff
- Obtained partial Summary Judgment in defense of General Contractor in a labor dispute, resulting in the elimination of \$300,000 from the plaintiff's claim, removal of a key witness and a favorable settlement
- Temporarily enjoined a large government agency from making a claim on a General Contractor bid error, leading to a settlement beneficial to the contractor
- Brought suit and favorably settled mechanics and materialmen's lien claim by overhead door contractor in multi-party litigation in connection with work done on a \$7 million cryogenic manufacturing industrial warehouse
- Represented plumbing subcontractor in mediation against multiple parties for claims of non-payment

Mike Schiff

Representative Experience (Cont'd)

- Obtained a favorable settlement for pipeline contractor in litigation arising from work conducted by a subcontractor on a Montgomery County storm water and sewer utilities project
- Assisted an international construction corporation in preparation for a multi-million dollar breach of contract arbitration concerning construction of pumping stations for a trans-national oil pipeline
- Clerked for an international retail energy company assisting in matters including litigation, corporate divestiture, contract negotiations, and collaboration with other industry members on research and development

**Speeches and Publications:**

"Drone Regulations in Construction Usage," Andrews Myers Monthly Law Alert, October 2016

"Arbitrator Subpoenas: Are They Worth the Paper They're Written On?" American Arbitration Association Webinar (Co-Author and Co-Presenter), December 2015

"Hot Tip Case Review: *LAN/STV v. Martin K. Eby Const. Co.*, 435 S.W.3d 234 (Tex. 2014)," American College of Construction Lawyers Conference (Co-Author), February 2015

"An Examination of Texas Civil Practice & Remedies Section 150.002 'Certificate of Merit' Statute and Associated Caselaw," Construction Law Journal, (Co-Author), Summer 2011

**Affiliations:**

State Bar of Texas

Houston Bar Association, Construction Law and Litigation Sections

Houston Young Lawyer's Association

Associated Builders and Contractors

The Associated General Contractors of America, Construction Leadership Council