

Andrew S. "Andy" Harris

Senior Associate

PRACTICE EMPHASIS:

Construction; Litigation; Commercial Real Estate

EDUCATION:

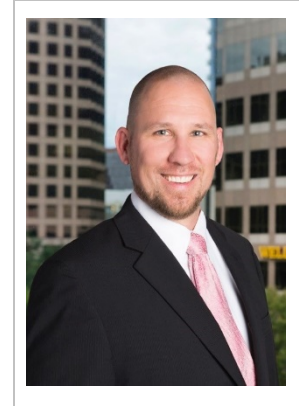
J.D., *magna cum laude*, Stetson University College of Law, 2013
Stetson Law Review, Moot Court Board, Honors Program
B.A., University of Connecticut, 2003
Varsity Baseball, Scholar Athlete

ADMITTED:

State Bar of Texas
State Bar of Florida

COURT ADMISSIONS:

U.S. District Court, Western District of Texas



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Profile:

Andy's practice focuses on advocating for general contractors, subcontractors, suppliers and owners on a variety of construction related issues including litigation, contract negotiations, and alternative dispute resolution. He also has experience in commercial real estate, both transactional and litigation, representing owners, multifamily developers and management firms in landlord/tenant disputes, lease enforcements, collections and foreclosures. In addition, Andy handles contract drafting and negotiations, as well as compliance with state and federal laws.

A seasoned, first-chair trial lawyer, Andy's legal acumen is complemented by previous field experience with a general contractor, where he managed numerous projects throughout the Midwest and Texas.

Andy is also the co-founder and a current board member of RBI Austin, a 501(c)(3) which supports nearly 1,000 at-risk children and teens in East Austin athletically, academically and spiritually.

Representative Experience:

- Assisted in the representation of owner, general contractor and subcontractor clients on a variety of different matters including breach of contract claims, settlement negotiations, lien removal, and debt collections.
- First-chair trial experience in real property litigation, including landlord-tenant issues and contested property divisions.
- Represented national lending institutions by successfully litigating numerous foreclosure actions against defaulting borrowers.
- Favorably resolved a lawsuit alleging client violated a non-compete clause.
- Represented various clients by drafting and negotiating lease documents and supporting addendums.
- Successfully recovered payment for design work performed by client in construction of medical facilities.
- Defended out-of-state builder against improper permitting and defects claims on new construction.
- Negotiated favorable construction timeline for client to ensure smooth occupancy transition for business.
- Successfully terminated commercial lease for business owner and landlord when tenant violated city and county code and lease terms.
- Favorable resolved payment dispute for works performed by subcontractor in large commercial development.

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Affiliations:

State Bar of Texas - Construction Law Section
Austin Bar Association - Construction Law Section (Board Member 2017 – 2018); Leadership Academy, 2015;
Mentorship Program, 2014
RBI Austin – Board of Advisors
Austin Young Lawyers Association
Associated Builders and Contractors – Central Texas Chapter (2018 Membership Committee Chair)
The Associated General Contractors of America – Austin Chapter
AGC Construction Leadership Council
Greater Austin Contractors & Engineers Association
American Bar Association – Forum on the Construction Industry
Central Texas Future Leadership Council
Construction Financial Management Association
Real Estate Council of Austin

Speeches and Publications:

"Heard 'a Purdah? Witness Communication in Arbitration," AM Monthly Law Alert, November 2019
Featured Speaker, AGC Prime Time San Antonio, October 2019
"The State of the Construction Industry," Surety Association of South Texas, June 2019
"Legal Contracting Issues," AGC North Central Texas Chapter, April 2019
"An Introduction to Texas Construction Law," State Bar of Texas Construction Law Section, Basic Course in Construction Law, December 2018
"Rethinking Arbitration Clauses in Condo Construction," Andrews Myers Monthly Law Alert, September 2018
"Can I Say That? Defamation and Tortious Interferences Issues for Attorneys," (co-author), State Bar of Texas Construction Law Conference, March 2018
"Legislative Update 2017," American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, 2017
"Be Careful Out There: Bad Trends in Oilfield MSA Indemnity Clauses," (Co-Author), AM Monthly Law Alert, November 2017
"Keeping Austin 'Solar Friendly'," AM Monthly Law Alert, April 2017
"New Austin Regulations on Employment Applications," Andrews Myers Monthly Law Alert, October 2016
"Austin Imposes New Construction Recycling Ban," Andrews Myers Monthly Law Alert, August 2016
"Enforceability of Contractual Liquidated Damages Penalties," Andrews Myers Monthly Law Alert, July 2016
"Enforceability of Contractual Fines/Penalties for Subcontractor Safety Violations," (Co-Author), Mechanical Contractors Association of America, *Management Methods Manual*, 2016