

Breton A. "Bret" Rycroft

Shareholder

PRACTICE EMPHASIS:

Business Litigation; Construction Litigation; Real Estate Litigation

EDUCATION:

J.D., South Texas College of Law, 2011
B.A., The University of Texas at Austin, 2008
Texas Crew Rowing Team

ADMITTED:

State Bar of Texas

COURT ADMISSIONS:

U.S. District Court, Southern District of Texas



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Profile:

Bret Rycroft represents a wide range of clients in business disputes in state and federal courts across Texas, offering creative, practical and value-driven solutions to the complex issues his clients face. Bret has successfully represented clients in matters related to breach of contract, business-related tort matters, employment disputes, personal injury claims, construction defect claims, and enforcement of non-competition agreements. He has represented a diverse group of clients across numerous industries, including real estate, property management, construction, oil and gas, energy and Texas businesses.

Prior to joining Andrews Myers, Bret practiced commercial litigation with a business litigation firm in Houston, Texas and previously practiced criminal defense with a defense firm in Houston, Texas. Bret started his career as a member of the trial team for Roger Clemens in Washington, D.C.

Bret is Board Certified in Commercial Real Estate Law and Residential Real Estate Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.

Professional Recognition:

Commercial Real Estate Law, Texas Board of Legal Specialization

Residential Real Estate Law, Texas Board of Legal Specialization

"Texas Rising Star," *Texas Monthly*, 2017 - Present

Recognized as a "Top Lawyer" by *Houstonia* magazine, January 2020

The Best Lawyers in America ® by Woodward/White Inc. "Ones to Watch" in Commercial Litigation, Litigation – Construction, and Litigation – Real Estate; 2021

The Best Lawyers in Texas ® by Woodward/White Inc. "Ones to Watch"; 2021

Affiliations:

State Bar of Texas, Litigation and Construction Sections

Houston Bar Association, Real Estate and Construction Sections

Houston Apartment Association

Houston Young Lawyers Association, Co-Chair: Annual Clay Shoot

Urban Land Institute

National Association of Industrial and Office Properties

BOMA

The Garland Walker Inn of Court

Affiliations (Cont'd)

Texas Apartment Association
National Apartment Association
Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc.
Texas Trial Lawyers Association

Representative Experience:

- Successfully represented national owners and property management companies in hundreds of bench trials and numerous jury trials across Texas involving residential and commercial real estate disputes
- Represented numerous general contractors, subcontractors and suppliers in collection claims with foreclosure of mechanic's and materialman's liens and mineral property liens
- Successfully prosecuted breach of contract claim for Fortune 500 material supply company
- Defended national owners and property management companies in numerous residential and commercial lawsuits involving breach of contract allegations, business related tort claims, DTPA claims and discrimination lawsuits
- Defended subcontractor in the U.S. District Court in the Southern District of Texas for claims involving CERCLA, RCRA, RICO, nuisance and trespassing
- Defended general contractor in AAA arbitration for termination claims
- Successfully represented owners and national management companies in multiple complaints with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Texas Workforce Commission and the City of Austin Fair Housing Department
- Successfully prosecuted claims for subcontractors and supplies against general contractors and individual owners for violating the Texas Construction Trust Fund Statute
- Defended Texas custom home builders in RCLA claims for construction defects
- Successfully prosecuted subcontractor's breach of contract claims against general contractors and owner in AAA arbitration
- Defended Fortune 500 property management company in personal injury claims
- Represented residential real estate developer in Texas state court involving claims for breach of contract, breach of warranty, and multiple DTPA claims
- Defended national management company in discrimination and fair housing lawsuit in the U.S. District Court in the Southern District of Texas
- Successfully defended national management company in the U.S. District Court in the Southern District of Texas for claims of violation of Fair Debt Collection Practices Act
- Defended real estate developer in Texas state court for felony water pollution
- Represented numerous oil and gas companies in disputes with service companies

Speeches and Publications:

"Top Things Property Managers Can do to Protect Themselves against COVID-19 Lawsuits," AM Monthly Law Alert, August 2020
"Before a Lawsuit Happens," Institute of Real Estate Management- July 2020
"Chaos and Opportunity," U.S. Department of Commerce, Minority Business Development- June 2020
"Texas Lien Law & Collections," North Texas Roofing Contractors Association, Dallas, Texas, October 2019- Present
Mock Trial educational seminar, Associated Builders and Contractors Leadership Forum, April 2019
New Firearm Legislation, AM Monthly Law Alert, June 2019

Bret Rycroft

Speeches & Publications (Cont'd)

(Contributing Author) Recent Court Opinions Concerning Construction Law, The Change Order, State Bar of Texas Construction Law Section, March 2019

"Is Fido Allowed? And Should Fido be Allowed?," AM Monthly Law Alert, October 2018

Fair Housing, AM Monthly Law Alert, 2018

"Generational Age Gap," Houston Bar Association Continuing Legal Education, April 2018

Blue Star Program, Houston Apartment Association, 2017

Mock Trial, Houston Apartment Association, 2017

"Certified Apartment Manager," Houston Apartment Association, 2016 & 2017

"Leasing 101," Houston Apartment Association, Annual Presentation, 2015 - Present