

Michael "Mike" Cortez

Shareholder

PRACTICE EMPHASIS:

Construction law, transactional; Oil, Gas & Energy law

EDUCATION:

J.D., Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law,
1994

B.B.A., (Finance), Texas A&M University, 1991

ADMITTED:

State Bar of Texas



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Profile:

Mike Cortez's practice focuses on construction related transactions, including large, complex energy procurement and construction projects, design and construction contracts, project risk management and lien and bond claims. He has represented owners, developers, architects, contractors and EPC's on a wide variety of construction projects including oil and gas, multi-family, industrial, manufacturing and government services. Mike has significant experience representing clients in drafting and negotiating complex construction contracts under multiple project delivery systems.

Mike served as outsourced project counsel with the largest engineering and construction company in the United States, where he negotiated downstream procurement and service agreements, subcontracts and financial security agreements, related to a large, complex international LNG project for a leading global energy company. He has also served as in-house construction counsel for a substantial domestic and international portfolio of multifamily and mixed-use projects for a prominent real estate development company in Houston.

Affiliations:

State Bar of Texas, Construction Law Section; Oil, Gas & Energy Resources Law Section
Houston Bar Association, Construction Law Section
American Bar Association, Forum on the Construction Industry Member
The Association of Commercial Real Estate Professionals (Diversity, Membership Committees)
Rice Global Engineering & Construction Forum (Scholarship Committee)
Hispanic Bar Association of Houston
National Association of Minority Contractors, Greater Houston Chapter
Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Representative Experience:

- Negotiated complex mixed-use, hotel and multi-family construction contracts on behalf of national general contractors.
- Represented ENR Top Environmental Contractor in negotiation of over \$250 Million worth of remediation service agreements on multi-billion dollar LNG and other industrial projects.
- Negotiated over \$100 Million worth of commercial construction contracts for general contractors on HUD financed projects for senior housing and low income housing projects in Central Texas.
- Represented owner-developer on design and construction agreements for \$25 Million condominium tower project in San Antonio, Texas.

Mike Cortez

Representative Experience (Cont'd)

- Negotiated over \$500 million worth of architect agreements and design-build agreements for hotel, multifamily and office towers in the downtown Houston CBD.
- Negotiated multi-million dollar downstream procurement and service agreements, subcontracts, financial security and other related agreements related to a \$50 billion dollar LNG Project located in Australia.
- Negotiated domestic and international EPC, construction, procurement, shipping and freight contracts for large, global oilfield chemical company for manufacturing facilities and related midstream, downstream, and upstream services to the oil & gas industry.
- Negotiated numerous Owner-Contractor Agreements, Architect Agreements, Consulting Agreements and Subcontracts for annual portfolio in excess of \$5 Billion of multifamily high-rise projects. Also developed and implemented standard forms, contracting and procurement procedures.
- Negotiated international construction contract for \$25 Million semiconductor plant in the Philippines on behalf of large semiconductor chip manufacturer/owner.
- Negotiated design and construction agreements for \$15 Million aerospace launch pad on behalf of owner-developer.
- Represented pipeline contractor on \$10 Million construction dispute.
- Achieved favorable settlements and/or dismissals of more than \$20 Million in lien disputes and lawsuits on a 20+ multi-family project portfolio.

Teaching Experience:

Instructor, "Contract Administration," Project Manager Development Program, Associated General Contractors
Adjunct Professor, "Construction Contract Administration," University of Houston College of Technology, Department of Construction Management
Guest Lecturer, "Construction Law," Southern Methodist University, Dedman School of Law

Speeches and Publications:

"Back to Your Regular Programming: Construction Contracts – What is the Critical Path?," AM Monthly Law Alert, May 2021
"Eight Issues to Review when Negotiating Construction Contracts in the COVID-19 World," AM Monthly Law Alert, August 2020
"Force Majeure Now," AM Law Alert, March 2020
"Construction Contracts: Quick Tips for Better Risk Management," AM Monthly Law Alert, May 2019
"Key Issues: Federal and Texas Contracting," Private Client Event, July 2018
"Avoiding Employment Problems in Construction," Associated Builders & Contractors of Greater Houston, June 2018
"No Damage for Delay – New Spin on Standard Clause?" AM Monthly News Alert, February 2018
Speaker, "2017 Revisions to the AIA Construction Contract Documents," Houston Bar Association Real Estate Section, November 2017
Presenter, "Anatomy of EPC Contracts," Lorman Seminar, March 2017
Speaker, "Change Orders and Change Management," Associated Builders and Contractors – Houston, Texas (December 2016)
"Who Bears the Risk of Differing Site Conditions?" Andrews Myers Monthly Law Alert, May 2016
Speaker, "Construction Contracts 101," Associated General Contractors - Houston, Texas (April 2016)
Co-Author, "2016 Construction Law Update (Chapter 11 – Southwest Region)," *Wolters Kluwer Publication*
Author, "Fifty State Construction Lien and Bond Law (Texas Chapter)," *Wolters Kluwer Publication*
Author, "State by State Guide to Architect, Engineer and Contractor Licensing (Texas Chapter)," *Wolters Kluwer*
Speaker, "Managing Construction Projects," Lorman Seminar, Fort Worth, Texas (May 2006)
Presenter, "AIA Contracts in Texas," Lorman Seminar, Dallas, Texas (October 2005)