

Sara Abbott McEown

Shareholder

PRACTICE EMPHASIS:

Construction law; Litigation

EDUCATION:

J.D., Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law
B.S. Construction Science, Texas A&M University

ADMITTED:

State Bar of Texas

COURT ADMISSIONS:

U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit
U.S. District Court, Northern, Eastern and Southern Districts of
Texas



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Profile:

Sara McEown's practice focuses on the transactional and dispute resolution aspects of construction law. She works with clients in all phases of the construction process with an emphasis on contract drafting and negotiation, dispute avoidance during construction, field management and administration, project close-out and dispute resolution. When litigation is unavoidable, Sara has over a decade of experience trying construction cases to verdict and through appeal, as well as real estate and commercial business disputes. Sara's legal acumen is complemented by her field experience with a large commercial general contractor prior to law school. This distinctive combination allows her insight into the nuts and bolts of issues that arise before, during and after a project, and the intrinsic capability to support the project community – including general contractors, subcontractors, owners, developers and sureties – in all aspects of construction and development. Sara focuses on getting to know her clients' businesses and providing counsel that meets their specific needs.

Prior to joining Andrews Myers, P.C., Sara was a partner with an Am Law rated law firm.

Professional Recognition:

"Texas Rising Star," *Texas Monthly*, (2013 - Present)
"Top Lawyer," Best of Houstonia, *Houstonia Magazine*, 2018
"Texas Verdicts Hall of Fame," – Inaugural Member, Texas Lawyer
Houston's "Top Lawyers," *H Texas Magazine*; 2019

Affiliations:

State Bar of Texas, Construction Law Section
Houston Bar Association, Construction Law Section
Tarrant County Bar Association, Construction Law Section, Business Litigation Section
Dallas Bar Association, Construction Law Section
TEXO, The Construction Association
Construction Lawyers Society of America
March of Dimes Greater Houston (Board Member 2019-Present, Executive Leadership Team, 2018-Present)

Speeches and Publications:

"Overview of the Construction Industry and Glossary of Terms," State Bar of Texas Construction Basics Course, December 2019

Sara A. McEown

Speeches and Publications (Cont'd)

"AIA Rolls Out New Construction Manager Series of Form Contracts," AM Law Alert, November 2019
"Show Me The Money!! Please?? Drafting Tips To Get To A Counterparty's Money," State Bar of Texas
Construction Law Section Conference, (2018)

Representative Experience:

TRANSACTIONAL

- Drafted and negotiated construction contracts for construction of largest indoor waterpark in the nation, along with over 900-key hotel, restaurants, retail, convention center and infrastructure with an estimated project cost of over \$500 million.
- Represented two member institutions in drafting and negotiating design and construction agreements for development of 37-acre collaborative medical research campus in Houston, Texas with a project cost of approximately \$300 million.
- Drafted and negotiated development agreements and design-build agreement for 200,000 square-foot headquarters in Capital Corridor.
- Drafted and negotiated construction contract for \$250 million hospitality project and conference center for publically traded company.
- Represented multi-family contractor in design and construction contracts related to construction of \$90 million multi-family complex in Florida.
- Represented publically traded oil and gas company in construction of corporate headquarters, including drafting and negotiating design and construction contracts.
- Represent retail developer in drafting design and construction contracts for various developments throughout Houston, Texas.
- Draft design and construction contracts for major mixed-use property development spanning 8.5 acres in Atlanta, Georgia for over 600,000 square feet, LEED Certified 26-story office tower.
- Represent owner in development of downtown mixed-use office tower, garage, retail, hotel and residential tower in Dallas, Texas.
- Draft various design and construction AIA forms for clients such as publically traded national retailer, national multifamily developer, and regional retail developer.
- Drafted and negotiated design and construction agreement for construction of trade association headquarters.
- Represented owner for agreements related to renovation of downtown high-rise office tower.
- Draft construction agreements for construction and renovation of 350,000 square feet Class A office building in Washington D.C.
- Draft design and construction contracts for \$100 million renovation of historical building for multi-family project.
- Represented a governmental entity in the negotiation of a construction contract for a \$500+ million infrastructure project.

LITIGATION

- *George F. Cravens, M. and Center for Neurological Disorders Hospital, LP, et al., v. Richard Myers and Realty Capital Corporation, et al.* (Tarrant County District Court) Obtained a judgment for over \$10 million after a five week trial in this fraud case where the defendants represented that they had specific knowledge as to the development of surgical hospitals.
- Obtained summary judgment for five defendants in alleged oil and gas contamination case in the Barnett Shale.
- Represented political subdivision of the state in bid protest for design-build project estimated at over \$500 million.
- Represented a condominium developer in \$32 million dollar construction defect arbitration, which also involved allegations regarding payment issues. There were 35 parties in the case, and the developer obtained a very favorable settlement just prior to the arbitration hearing.