



Katherine L. Beran

ATTORNEY

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PRACTICE AREAS

Construction Disputes

EDUCATION

J.D., *with honors*, The University of Texas School of Law (2015)

- Dean's Achievement Awards in Employment Law and Legal Research and Writing
- The Review of Litigation, Associate Editor
- Actual Innocence Clinic, Student Attorney

B.A., Journalism, *Valedictorian with Highest Honors*, The University of Texas at Austin (2010)

- The Daily Texan, Journalist
- Kappa Tau Alpha Honor Society
- Dean's List

LICENSES & CERTIFICATIONS

Supreme Court of the United States

Supreme Court of Texas

Admitted to U.S. District Courts for the Western, Eastern, Northern, and Southern Districts of Texas



Katherine helps her clients navigate disputes and replaces frustration with clarity and calm. **She's a problem-solver** who analyzes her clients' challenges, advocates for a solution, and helps find the path through conflict.

OVERVIEW

Katherine is a construction litigation attorney with a diverse professional background as a trial lawyer, representing individuals and organizations in a wide range of cases. A seasoned advocate and strategist, she applies a pragmatic approach to her cases that makes her extremely effective while solving her clients' problems.

She's litigated cases on a wide range of topics. A partial list includes breaches of contract, breaches of fiduciary duty, construction defects, foreclosures, fraudulent liens, construction disputes and lease assignments, fraud, anti-kickback violations, and employment disputes.

The foundation of Katherine's approach to working with clients involves trust, clarity, and ensuring that her clients know they have someone in their corner. Practical, persuasive, and tactful,

she begins by understanding the client's objective. Maintaining a relationship? Minimizing exposure or legal fees? Litigating to preserve the client's interests? Collection risk? Righting real wrongs, or the need for risk mitigation? Katherine walks through what has landed her clients where they are, listens carefully, and bases her work on what she hears.

Her research strategy includes absolute candor. She analyzes the facts and relevant law, together with all other factors, and presents her client with her findings and recommendations. Her goal is to be a true partner to the client, identify risks, and avoid surprises. She strives to make her clients fully informed, and aware of the potential implications of their decisions.

If a client finds a lawsuit the best approach, Katherine will file the petition and fight to win the dispute. If settlement makes better sense, she'll advocate for the best possible outcome. She sees litigation as a problem to be solved, not a battle to be won. In the courtroom, in depositions, and in motion practice, Katherine is a fighter—and her opponents know it (or will learn it in the process). As litigation marches on, Katherine reassesses her client's position at every stage, communicates her findings, and adjusts as she and the client see fit.

When she's not solving legal problems, Katherine spends time with her husband and children. They travel, hike national parks, play softball and volleyball, and enjoy wine tasting and UT football.

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Served on trial team that tried multi-million-dollar construction and design defect dispute to final jury verdict, securing full relief for owner of mixed-use commercial property and full award of attorneys' fees.
- Successfully secured non-suit for concrete subcontractor alleged of misappropriating competitor's trade secrets.
- First-chaired and secured permanent injunction for defrauded financial institution.
- Successfully briefed Rule 12(b)(6) motion to dismiss for electrical subcontractor in ERISA dispute and received dismissal of plaintiff's causes of action.
- Secured favorable settlement for large architectural firm facing design defect allegations related to alleged structural deficiencies in medical and educational facility.
- Successfully represented large engineering firm in Texas Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (TBPELS) investigation and secured full dismissal of investigation with no administrative penalties.

- Successfully represented various professional engineers in investigations brought by the Texas Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (TBPELS) and secured full dismissals with no administrative penalties.
- Secured favorable settlement for large architectural firm facing allegations of fraud, negligence, and breach of contract.
- First-chaired federal bench trial in the Northern District of Texas and obtained judgment for client who sought the return of abducted children and successfully defended judgment in the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.
- Served on trial team that tried five-week multi-billion-dollar dispute to final verdict and obtained favorable settlement during appellate proceedings.
- Successfully secured non-suit for commercial printer in trade secret and business disparagement dispute.
- Counseled numerous fiduciaries regarding trust and estate disputes.
- Counseled on several oil and gas matters, including briefing before the Supreme Court of Texas.
- First-chaired and received favorable judgments in several pro bono family law matters in state and federal court, including final bench hearings involving allegations of extreme domestic abuse.
- Counseled on a variety of complex litigation disputes in state and federal courts, including insurance coverage disputes for large commercial institutions, qui tam and antitrust disputes, and various class action disputes.

INDUSTRY INVOLVEMENT

- State Bar of Texas, Construction Law Section | Member (2021-Present)
- State Bar of Texas, Young Lawyers Section | Member (2021-Present)
- Austin Bar Association, Construction Law Section | Member (2021-Present)
- Austin Bar Association, Austin Young Lawyers Association (2020-Present)
- American Bar Association: Forum on Construction Law, Division 3 (Design) | Member (Present)
- Urban Land Institute – Austin | Member (Present)
- Travis County Women Lawyers' Association | Member (Present)
- The Patrick E. Higginbotham American Inn of Court, Associate