



Robert W. Derner

ATTORNEY

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PRACTICE AREAS

Construction Contracts
 Construction Disputes

EDUCATION

J.D., *cum laude*, St. Mary's University
 School of Law (2020)

- *St. Mary's Law Journal* | Managing Editor (2019-2020), Staff Writer (2018-2019)
- Robert W. Derner, Comment, *Ethical Limitations on Lawyer-to-Lawyer Online Consultations Regarding Pending Cases*, 10 *St. Mary's J. Legal Mal. & Ethics* 102 (2020)
- Judicial Intern to the Honorable Xavier Rodriguez, U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Texas (2018)

B.A., *summa cum laude*, Political Science, Texas State University (2016)

LICENSES & CERTIFICATIONS

Supreme Court of Texas



As with the construction industry itself, **details matter** in construction law, and Robert thrives on untangling complex legal issues.

OVERVIEW

Austin construction attorney Robert Derner is all about focus. His deeply analytical mind, insatiable work ethic, and exacting attention to detail fuel his review and analysis of complex construction contracts and his approach to resolving industry disputes. Robert's practice centers mainly on professional services agreements for architects, engineers, and professional consultants—but regardless of the players, he scours each document to identify potential risks, untapped opportunities, and legal gray areas that can be leveraged during negotiation.

With an appreciation of each clause and how the wider agreement operates, Robert preserves coherence and clarity in each document, using close review and analysis to help the partner in charge advance negotiations and close the deal on favorable terms for the client. As with the construction industry itself, details matter in construction law, and Robert thrives on untangling complex legal issues.

In disputes, he uses these same skills to assess risks and help resolve conflicts involving breaches of contract, construction defects, and payment claims. Robert drills down to identify the critical issues of each case by thoroughly reviewing the project file, distilling key facts, and bringing clarity to the sprawling detail of a construction project—all with an eye toward helping clients chart the most straightforward and efficient path to resolution.

Robert's precision and attention to detail also power his legal writing. His skills on this front won him a published comment and selection as Editor-in-Chief of the St. Mary's Law Journal, as well as a judicial internship with the Honorable Xavier Rodriguez in the Western District of Texas. Now in private practice as a construction attorney, his deep commitment to research and preparation drives Robert's legal work in the same way it did his academics.

In his spare time, Robert likes to channel his energy toward weightlifting—helping to balance out his other favorite pastime of seeking out new restaurants all around town.

INDUSTRY INVOLVEMENT

- State Bar of Texas, Construction Law Section | Member (2020-Present)
- Austin Bar Association, Construction Law Section | Member (2020-Present)
- Austin Bar Association, Austin Young Lawyers Association | Member (2020-Present)

PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

- Law and the Architect: 2022 – A Smorgasbord of Thoughts on Architectural Practice and Risk Management
Place: AIA Austin 2022 Design Excellence Conference (August 2022)