

Laura K. Lavernia

Associate

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AS A MEMBER OF THE FIRM'S LITIGATION TEAM, LAURA ADVOCATES ZEALOUSLY ON BEHALF OF CLIENTS. SHE VALUES OPEN AND HONEST COMMUNICATION, MAKING SURE CLIENTS HAVE A FULL UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR LEGAL POSITION AND THE POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE VARIOUS COURSES OF ACTION THEY MIGHT TAKE.

A self-starter, Laura represents clients facing a range of commercial and business disputes, as well as creditors' rights and collection matters. Her recent experience includes research into federal and Texas labor and employment matters, including responding to EEOC charges and a lawsuit involving noncompete issues. She has represented clients in a variety of real estate and construction matters, including landlord-tenant disputes, mechanics' liens for unpaid construction materials, and demand and notice letters to comply with statutory requirements. For creditors, she has handled garnishments and post-judgment collections. Laura has also represented clients in complex breach of contract matters and a lawsuit regarding an insurer's failure to pay a claim, as well as intellectual property matters involving trademarks and patents.

Representative Experience

- Secured the dismissal of all claims against a prosthodontist and his dental practice with a Chapter 27 Anti-SLAPP Motion to Dismiss.
- Represented Bitters JSEL, a commercial landlord and real estate investor, in a lawsuit against one of the largest franchisee operators (tenant) in the country and its owner (guarantor) in a breach of lease case. After a bench trial in the 224th Judicial District, Bexar County, Texas, the court found the tenant and guarantor in breach of contract and held them jointly and severally liable for damages and attorneys' fees, totaling over \$1.1M.
- Secured a FINRA arbitration panel award granting expungement of a customer complaint for the client who was a FINRA-registered securities broker.

Noteworthy

- Named to *The Best Lawyers in America*® "Ones to Watch" List, 2023–2025
- Served as Judicial Extern to the Hon. Janis L. Sammartino, United States District Court for the Southern District of California.
- While serving as co-chair of the CRS Race, Work and Economic Justice Clinic, assisted with COVID-19-related employment matters.

Activities and Memberships

- Patrick E. Higginbotham American Inn of Court
 - Associate

Publications

- "Political Tug of War: Texas Legislature Attempts to Limit the Legislative Rights of Municipalities," *Texas Lawyer*, co-author; June 28, 2023.
- "Liens," *Manual of Credit and Commercial Laws - Liens, Bonds, and Trust Funds – Texas*, 114th Edition, co-author; 2022.
- "Toward Tissue-engineering of Nasal Cartilages," a review paper published in *Acta Biomaterialia*, co-author; 2019.

Presentations

- "Anti-SLAPP Case Study: Dealing with Defamation, Business Disparagement, and Social Media," 34th Annual Entertainment Law Institute (ELI), co-presenter; November 21, 2024.

Credentials

Education

- JD, University of California, Los Angeles, School of Law, 2021
- BS, University of California, Davis, 2017



Admissions

- Texas
- U.S. District Court for the Northern, Eastern, and Western Districts of Texas