

Melissa A. Baeza

Attorney / Shareholder



Areas of Concentration

- Construction Law
- Litigation

Education

Texas Tech University
Juris Doctor

St. Mary's University
Bachelor of Arts - Biology

Admissions & Qualifications

State Bar of Texas

United States District Court Western
District of Texas

Languages

- English
- Spanish

Contact Information

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Melissa Baeza is a shareholder in the litigation section and her practice is focused on commercial litigation and construction law. Ms. Baeza represents businesses and individuals in both state and federal court and in arbitrations and mediations.

In the area of commercial litigation, Ms. Baeza has experience with various types of disputes, including breach of fiduciary duty claims, professional liability claims, and breach of contract claims, fraud claims, and violations of the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Act. Ms. Baeza has also handled insurance defense litigation.

As an attorney in ScottHulse's Construction Law practice group, Ms. Baeza has advised and represented owners, general contractors, subcontractors, and engineers in all phases of public and private construction.

Ms. Baeza is President-Elect of the El Paso Women's Bar Association and a former board member of the El Paso Bar Association and El Paso Young Lawyers Association. Ms. Baeza was voted El Paso's Outstanding Young Lawyer for 2011-2012. She has also been selected to the Texas Rising Stars list by Thomson Reuters' Super Lawyers since 2018.

With respect to Ms. Baeza's activities in the community, she has been a mentor to students and young adults through several different mentorship programs. She was a participant in the Leadership El Paso Class XXXIII, sponsored by the Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce and is an active member in the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC), El Paso Chapter 248. In 2015 and 2017, she was awarded the President's Award from the NAWIC of the El Paso Chapter 248.

Ms. Baeza received her Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from Texas Tech University School of Law, where she was Articles Editor of Volume 41 of the *Texas Tech Law Review* and a Teaching Fellow for the first-year Legal Practice course. While in law school, Ms. Baeza received the CALI Award for Legal Practice I and Jurisprudence Awards for Superior Academic Achievement in Legal Practice II, Business Entities, and Advanced Advocacy Skills in Moot Court. She attended St. Mary's University in San Antonio, where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology.

Representative Matters

- Secured a defense verdict for a large Fortune 500 company as lead trial counsel after a two-week jury trial in a construction case involving claims for tortious interference with an existing contract and quantum meruit.
- Awarded a successful jury verdict on behalf of a client in a case involving competing breach of contract claims.
- Obtained a favorable arbitration award on behalf of a client in a case involving a subcontractor's breach of contract.
- Assisted the trial team with case strategy and handled the selection of the expert witness and preparation of the expert witness for depositions and trial.
- Handled discovery of over 149,000 pages of documents in a surveying case.
- Prepared construction contracts on behalf of owners and general contractors.
- Served as lead trial counsel in a will contest case involving claims of undue influence and lack of testamentary capacity where the jury returned a favorable verdict on both claims.
- Assisted as second chair in an arbitration proceeding involving a dispute over the redemption of a limited partner's interest in connection with a limited partnership agreement.

Presentations

- Speaker: National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) Pacific Southwest Region 2020 Fall Conference, *Force Majeure in Construction Contracts*, October 2, 2020, El Paso, Texas.
- Speaker: ScottHulse Legal Seminar, *Developing Legal Issues during COVID-19*, August 10, 2020, El Paso, Texas.
- Speaker: Construction Contract Workshop, HalfMoon Education Inc., December 17, 2018, San Antonio, Texas.
- Speaker: Construction Financial Management Association Chapter Meeting, *Key Construction Contract Clauses*, June 20, 2018, El Paso, Texas

- Speaker: Construction Contract Workshop, HalfMoon Education Inc., April 20, 2018, Radisson Hotel, El Paso, Texas.
- Speaker: National Association of Surety Bond Producers (NASBP), 2018 Annual Meeting, *Appearances can be Deceiving: Falsities in the World of Surety*, March 1, 2018, Scottsdale, Arizona.

Organizations

- State Bar of Texas – Litigation Section, Construction Law Section
- El Paso Bar Association
- El Paso Women’s Bar Association
- Federal Bar Association
- American Bar Association – Forum on the Construction Industry, Litigation Section
- Alumni of Leadership El Paso (Class XXXIII)
- Progress321
- League of Women Voters
- National Association of Women in Construction