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BIO

Barbara litigates claims on behalf of owners, general contractors and subcontractors in federal and state courts and before arbitral tribunals. Barbara also drafts and negotiates construction and architect contracts for developers and construction contracts for contractors. Notwithstanding that her training and experience is as a litigator, her principal goal is to assist clients in finding a path to resolve issues, eliminate disputes and to find sensible solutions to complicated legal issues. Separately, in the same vein, she is also trained as a mediator and arbitrator, she is on a current AAA panel, and performs those services when requested either through the AAA or ad hoc.

She also routinely represents government contractors in claims against the federal government. This includes performance and payment bond disputes; representing government contractors in false claims act investigations and disputes; and representing government contractors in bid protests and claims at the various Boards of Contract Appeals and in the Court of Federal Claims.

Barbara graduated magna cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania and received her juris doctor degree from George Washington University. She is admitted to practice in Virginia and the District of Columbia. She co-founded the Women in Construction, Inc. organization, a 501(c)(6) corporation and served as president of the annual conference from 2006 to 2021. In 2018, she served as the president of the Construction Lawyers Society of America, and remains a Fellow. Since 2016, she has been a Fellow of the American College of Construction Lawyers and participated on its Board of Governors from 2019 to 2023. Chambers has ranked her since 2008. She has been selected to SuperLawyers from 2006 to the present. From 2016 to 2018, she was chair of Division 13, Government Construction Contracts, of the ABA Forum on the Construction Industry, and in that capacity edited a recent ABA publication, Federal Government Construction Contracts. She has been on the faculty of the National Institute of Trial Advocacy ("NITA") and also on the faculty of the ABA Division 13 Trial Advocacy Program.

In her spare time she enjoys horseback riding, cycling, golf and triathlete competitions. She serves on the board of the Leukemia Ball in Washington, D.C., on the host committee for Active Minds casino night, and since 1984 has been on the Trustees' Council of Penn Women.

ADMITTED IN VA & DC

PUBLICATIONS

- Author in first edition, and all subsequent additions and updates as recently as 2024, Construction Law Handbook, "Terminations" (4th ed. 2021).
- Editor, "Federal Government Construction Contracts," Third Edition, 2017
- Co-author, "Todd Construction v. United States: Navigating Performance Evaluation Claims in the Court of Federal Claims," The Construction Lawyer, Winter 2015
- Co-author, "Navigating the Buy America Act in Federal Transit Authority Funded Contracts," Under Construction, American Bar Association, March 2014
- "How Non-U.S.-Owned Companies Can Compete for Federal Government Contracts," ConstructionWebLinks.com, March 24, 2010

RECENT CASES:

- Obtained a favorable arbitration award in a case involving deep excavations and slurry walls.
- Obtained a favorable federal district court award in a case involving construction of an Air Force taxiway.
- Won the largest jury verdict ever in a commercial case in Jackson County, Mississippi, for a subcontractor on a project that involved the dismantling of a fertilizer-manufacturing facility.
- Settled a nine-figure claim for alleged defective windows where the plaintiff had already prevailed in one trial and sought to enforce that judgment in 38 other lawsuits.
- Obtained a rare summary judgment on behalf of a plaintiff contractor in a default termination case against a subcontractor.