



# BIOGRAPHY



## MELINDA S. GENTILE

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## PARTNER

Melinda S. Gentile has developed expertise in all aspects of construction law and construction dispute resolution, and has demonstrated success in preparing and handling construction matters ranging from government procurement and bid protests to contract disputes, and from construction liens to defect, impact, bond and insurance claims. Ms. Gentile's construction law practice offers substantial experience and an understanding of the development and construction process, which is used to assist general contractors, construction managers, trade contractors, design professionals, owners and sureties in avoiding and resolving disputes during the construction process. Ms. Gentile's representation begins at the earliest stages of the construction process, during the negotiation and preparation of construction documents, and continues through completion and any subsequent disputes that may arise. She endeavors, wherever possible, for early identification and resolution of disputes that arise during the contracting and construction process in an effort to avoid litigation upon completion of the project. When dispute resolution cannot be accomplished during the construction process, Ms. Gentile vigorously represents her clients in varied litigation proceedings. She has successfully handled a variety of matters before state and federal courts, and in arbitration, mediation, administrative proceedings and private negotiations.

In addition to her construction law practice, Ms. Gentile maintains an active practice in other areas of general, civil and commercial litigation. She has been certified by the Supreme Court of Florida as a Circuit Civil Mediator and is certified as a Specialist in Construction Law by the Florida Bar. She is admitted to practice before the United States District Court for the Northern, Middle and Southern Districts of Florida, as well as the courts of the State of Florida. She has also served as a Broward County Magistrate. Ms. Gentile has authored numerous articles on construction law and is a frequent lecturer at seminars on construction-related topics.

# HIGHLIGHTS

## **ADMISSIONS:**

- State of Florida
- United States District Court for the Northern District of Florida
- United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida
- United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida
- Supreme Court of Florida, Circuit Civil Mediator

## **EDUCATION:**

- Avila University, B.A.
- Florida International University, M.S.
- Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad Law Center, J.D.

## **MEMBERSHIPS:**

- Florida Bar (Construction Law Committee)
- Broward County Bar (Construction Law Committee)
- The National Association of Women in Construction
- The Construction Association of South Florida
- Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc.

## **PRACTICE AREAS:**

- Construction
- Contracts and Risk Management
- Commercial Litigation
- Dispute Resolution
- Government Contracts

## **AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS:**

- Lifetime Achievement Award, The Florida Bar - Real Property, Probate & Trust Law Section
- Chambers USA
- Florida Super Lawyers
- International Who's Who of Business Lawyers for Construction
- Best Lawyers in America for Construction
- South Florida's Best Lawyers
- The Legal 500: United States, Leading Lawyer in Construction
- American Registry, Top Attorneys in Florida
- Women of Vision, Young At Art Museum
- Up and Comer Award, South Florida Business Journal
- Martindale-Hubbell AV Preeminent Rated and Register of Preeminent Women Lawyers
- Florida Bar Board Certified Construction Law Specialist
- Supreme Court of Florida, Certified Circuit Civil Mediator

## **PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS:**

- "Effective Use of Dispute Review Boards in Construction Projects" *Construction Ink! Magazine*, Fall 2013.