



Melissa Dewey Brumback, Partner
919.881.2214
mbrumback@rl-law.com



Melissa Dewey Brumback

Melissa is a litigation partner with over 16 years of experience, whose practice is focused on construction law and business disputes. She primarily represents architects and engineers, advising them on contract proposals to limit risks, defending them when litigation does arise, and assisting them in the collection of their accounts receivables. Her cases have included construction administration and management claims, plan defect claims, testing failure claims, and delay claims, and she has represented them in State and Federal courts as well as in binding arbitration. Her practice includes the defense of all sizes of claims, from private commercial buildings to large, multi-million dollar public projects.

In addition to construction cases, Melissa handles commercial litigation, business torts, contract negotiation, medical negligence claims, product defect liability, premise liability, title insurance litigation, and director and officer liability.

Since 2009, Melissa has written and edited *Construction Law in North Carolina* (www.constructionlawNC.com), which is dedicated exclusively to the design professional community. The blog is critically-acclaimed at the national level, and has been awarded the "Best Construction Blog" prize by *Design and Construction Report*.

Experience Highlights

Confidential Arbitration. Arbitrator found in favor of plaintiff-contractor (client) in private binding arbitration involving unpaid fees with counterclaim for alleged construction defects totaling over \$800,000.

After two week jury trial, awarded complete defense verdict (\$0.00 award) in favor of architect-client in construction litigation lawsuit involving allegations of architect's professional negligence.

Confidential Arbitration. Arbitrator awarded complete defense verdict (\$0.0 awarded) in favor of engineer-client after lengthy binding private arbitration.

continued...

Practice Areas

Business Litigation
Complex Litigation
Construction Law
Construction Litigation
Insurance
Professional Licensing Boards
Title Insurance

Education

UNC at Chapel Hill, 1994, honors and highest distinction
UNC at Chapel Hill School of Law, J.D., 1998

Admissions

North Carolina Bar, 1998
North Carolina State & Federal Courts
Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
Supreme Court of the United States

Professional Affiliations

American Bar Association, Litigation and Construction Sections
North Carolina Bar Association
10th Judicial District Bar, Grievance Committee
Claims & Litigation Management Alliance
Defense Research Institute
NC Association of Defense Attorneys, Construction Law Section
RL Mace Universal Design Institute, Board of Directors & President

Civic Affiliations

North Carolina Jaycees, General Counsel, 2008
Chapel Hill Jaycees, 2002-08; headed 2002 Steering Committee to re-charter the chapter

...continued

Publications & Presentations

Ms. Brumback is a well respected author and presenter in the construction industry. Dozens of her articles relating to legal issues for design professionals, and risk avoidance for construction projects have been published, and she routinely lectures to multiple national, regional, and local construction-related industries on legal matters, including the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC), the American Institute of Architects (AIA), the Construction Defect Claims Managers Association (CDCMA) and the Construction Super Conference. Her speech topics have included:

- 7 Critical Mistakes that Engineers & Architects Make During Project Negotiation & Execution that Sabotage their Projects and Invite Litigation
- Public Construction Contracting: The new EJCDC Contract Forms
- The New ISO Additional Insured Forms
- Best Practices for Minimizing Risk in Construction Contracts Resolving Problems & Disputes on Construction Projects
- Multi-Party Construction Cases: Joinder of Subcontractors & Design Professionals in Binding Arbitration Agreements
- Scope of Services Under AIA, EJCDC, and ConsensusDocs Contract Forms
- Best Business Practices to Ensure You Get Paid

Previous Legal Experience

Stuart Law Firm, PLLC, Raleigh, NC, Associate
U.S. Attorney's Office, Raleigh, NC, Legal Intern
Wyrick Robbins Yates & Ponton LLP, Raleigh, NC, Law Clerk
NC Justice & Community Development Center, Raleigh, NC, Law Clerk

Honors & Awards

LexisNexis® Martindale-Hubbell® AV Preeminent®
Peer Review Rating
Super Lawyer® 2015 list in Construction
Litigation
Claims & Litigation Management Alliance
Journal of American Law Editorial Board
Legal Elite in Construction Law by *Business North Carolina Magazine*, 2013
LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Associate, 2011
Bar Register of Preeminent Women Lawyers
by Martindale-Hubbell®
Best Construction Blog, *Design and Construction Report*, 2011
Triangle Impact Law Leader 2008 by *Business Leader Magazine*
Triangle Business Journal's 2006 "40 Under 40" award