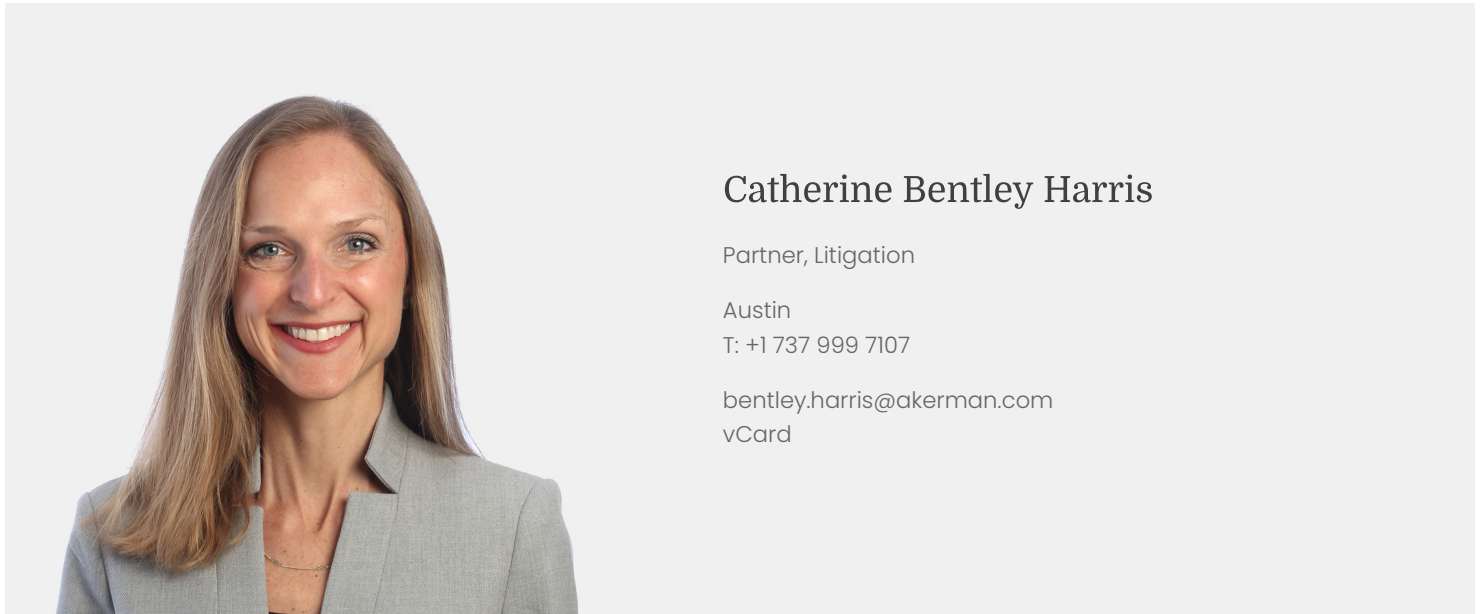


People



## Catherine Bentley Harris

Partner, Litigation

Austin

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bentley.harris@akerman.com

vCard

Catherine Bentley Harris focuses on assisting companies in formation, governance, and general corporate law as well as the selection, protection, and enforcement of intellectual property assets. She also helps companies with labor and employment issues including the negotiation of employment agreements, independent contractor agreements, and non-disclosure agreements as well as compliance with state and federal employment laws.

Her diverse practice further involves the provision of legal assistance to companies on various complex litigation matters. She has litigated patent infringement and trademark infringement cases in both the Eastern and Western Districts of Texas and environmental cases involving CERCLA violations in the Southern District of Texas. She has also played an instrumental role in the drafting of arbitration briefs, appellate briefs, and petitions for writ of certiorari for submission to the American Arbitration Association, the Federal Circuit and the Supreme Court of the United States.

In addition to Catherine's practice, she is also a member of several key Akerman committees, including Akerman Philanthropic Initiative, Akerman Strong, Lateral Integration, and the Women's Initiative Network. She is also the team leader for the Austin Community Impact Team.

### Notable Work

#### Intellectual Property

**Trademark Prosecution:** Prosecuted trademarks both domestically and internationally for business owners of various sizes including representation in proceedings before the Trademark Trial and Appeals Board

**Trademark Infringement:** Obtained judgment as a matter of law against trademark infringer in the Western District of Texas

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### Areas of Experience

Litigation  
Corporate  
Corporate Governance  
Intellectual Property  
Commercial Disputes  
Sports and Entertainment Law

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### Education

J.D., Tulane University Law School, 2008, *cum laude*  
B.A., University of Mississippi, Psychology, 2003, *summa cum laude*

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### Admissions

#### Bars

Texas  
Louisiana

#### Courts

U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Texas  
U.S. District Court, Western District of Texas  
U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of Texas  
U.S. Court of Appeals, Federal Circuit  
U.S. Supreme Court

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### Related Content

Akerman Partner Bentley Harris Publishes *Austin Chamber* Article on Intellectual Property Protection  
May 05, 2022

Akerman Hosts Austin Client and Community Event  
August 05, 2021

Akerman Co-Sponsors TribFeast 2019  
September 27, 2019

**Trademark Portfolio Management:** Managed patent portfolios within the United States and abroad for businesses of various sizes

**Patent Infringement:** Representation of patent portfolio owner in telecommunications industry for recovery of multi-million dollar judgements and settlements against top market players

**Patent Infringement:** Drafting of appellate brief and preparation for oral hearings before the Federal Circuit

**Patent Infringement:** Drafting of writ of certiorari for filing with United States Supreme Court

**Licensing:** Negotiated and drafting of trademark and software license agreements for major industry players in self-automation driving technology and telecommunication industries

**Protection of Company Intellectual Property:** Negotiated and drafted employee non-disclosure agreements, proprietary invention assignment agreements, non-compete, non-solicitation, and other restrictive covenants for businesses in various industries

### Commercial/Business Transactions and Disputes

**Corporation Governance:** Drafting of formation and governance documents and related company documentation for partnerships, limited partnerships, limited liability companies, and corporations

**Commercial Agreements:** Drafted and negotiated service and sales agreements for business of various sizes relating to transactions throughout the United States and abroad

**Business Transactions:** Representation of Austin-area local business sellers in asset and equity transaction acquisitions by national companies

**Litigation Management:** Management of litigation proceedings throughout the United States for business owner in construction industry related to disputes involving breach of contract, fraud, and enforcement of mechanic's liens

**Mediation:** Drafted mediation position statements and successfully mediated resolution of employment, intellectual property and commercial contractual disputes

**Arbitration:** Representation of business owner in extensive arbitration proceedings related to private placement documents, investment representations, and fiduciary duties

### Published Work and Lectures

- *Austin Business Journal*, Featured, "Living Their Values, Adapting Their Culture: Fearless Women Leaders Discuss Supporting the Next Generation," August 23, 2024
- *Austin Business Journal*, Speaker, "Women Who Lead Roundtable," August 23, 2024
- American Bar Association, Co-Author, Wire Fraud Chapter, "Banking On It: The Ten Most Common Claims Involving Banks," July 2024
- *Austin Chamber*, Author, "The Intellectual Property Rules You Make on Day One Can Save You Future Pain," May 2, 2022

## Affiliations

- Travis County Women Lawyer's Association, Member
- Austin Young Lawyers Association, Member
- Junior League of Austin, Member
- Breakthrough Austin, Academic Advisor
- Yes! Mentoring, Mentor
- BiGAustin, Business Law Instructor
- Coach Training Institute, Certified Professional Co-Active Coach (CPCC)
- Texas Accountants and Lawyers for the Arts, Volunteer
- Dress for Success Austin, Mentor
- ZACH Theatre, Community Volunteer

## Honors and Distinctions

- *Austin Business Journal*, Top Women in Business Awards, Nominee, 2023
- Texas Diversity Council, 2022 Top Women Lawyers Award Winner