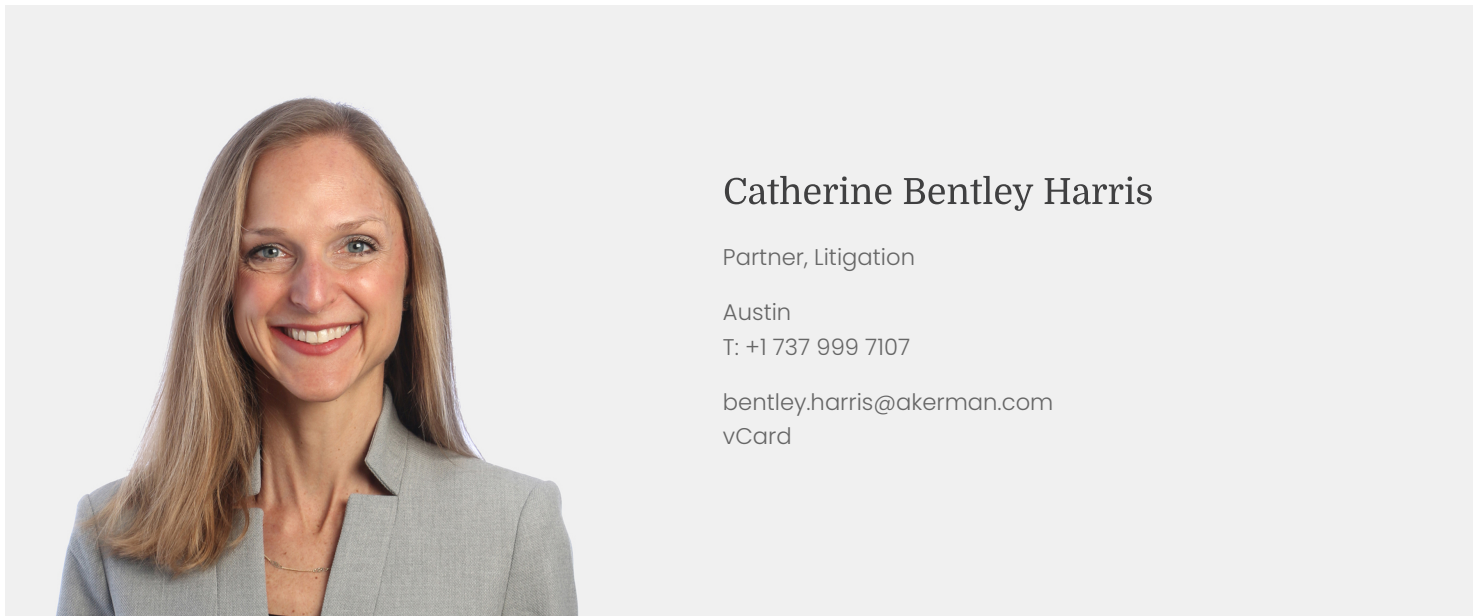


People



Catherine Bentley Harris

Partner, Litigation

Austin

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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

Areas of Experience

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

Education

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

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

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