

People



George W. ('Trey') Tate III

Partner, Litigation
Construction Litigation and Dispute Resolution

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Board Certified by The Florida Bar in Construction Law, Trey Tate focuses his practice on both contract preparation and negotiation and complex construction litigation. His work with complex construction litigation has a special emphasis on delay claims, construction defect claims, payment disputes, lien and bond claims, and bid protests for his construction clients.

He handles construction contract negotiation and preparation on projects of all scale and type, from single family luxury homes and multifamily projects to horizontal and vertical projects, including the "Medical City" and "Towncenter" projects at Lake Nona. Trey handled the original design and construction and multi-party project agreements to commence Medical City, including the Sanford-Burnham deal, and has advised Tavistock Development Company on the design and construction of numerous projects in the Lake Nona area including the recently completed USTA complex and Lake Nona Towncenter, which is currently under construction. Having negotiated the contracts for billions of dollars worth of projects, he is adept at advising clients on all aspects of contract negotiation and drafting, including numerous different delivery methods, and regularly advises clients on myriad issues that arise in active construction projects on a daily basis to help keep projects running smoothly and out of litigation.

For claims that cannot be resolved short of litigation, Trey has experience litigating construction claims, having tried numerous cases all the way through a final verdict in both court and arbitration proceedings. Those claims include a wide variety of construction claims including payment, delay, and lien disputes to non-construction claims in the landlord-tenant and general business settings.

As a former Deputy District Attorney for the County of Los Angeles, Trey tried nearly 30 cases to jury verdict along with conducting numerous bench trials. During his time as Deputy District Attorney, he spent nearly every day in court, conducting hundreds of hearings and questioning thousands of witnesses. With a caseload of over

Areas of Experience

Litigation
Construction
Construction Litigation and Dispute Resolution

Education

J.D., Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law, 1999, Order of the Barristers
B.A., Princeton University, 1996

Admissions

Bars

Florida
California

Courts

U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida
U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida

Related Content

Akerman Earns Top National Rankings in the 2025 *Legal 500 U.S. Guide*
June 12, 2025

Record Number of Akerman Lawyers Named to *The Best Lawyers in America* 2024 Guide
August 22, 2023

71 Akerman Real Estate Lawyers Named to *The Best Lawyers in America* 2023 Guide
September 26, 2022

3,000 cases per year, he developed strong negotiating skills, which he currently uses to achieve success for his clients during mediations and settlement conferences.

Notable Work

Condominium Construction Dispute: Representation of a large general contractor client in handling numerous lien and payment bond issues that arose when a major subcontractor failed on a high-rise condominium project, achieving a favorable resolution of all claims for his client.

General Contractor Dispute: Representation of a hotel developer in a payment dispute with the general contractor, in which he successfully defeated the contractor's claim in arbitration and also obtained a favorable ruling on the developer's claim.

Commercial Litigation: Representation of clients in commercial litigation for a variety of disputes, including landlord/tenant, commercial contract disputes, and trust litigation. He also obtained a favorable verdict in a multimillion-dollar dispute between two internet companies.

General Contractor Representation: Provides day-to-day advice for several significant general contractor clients on a variety of topics, including contract negotiation, payment disputes, change order disputes, and claims resolution.

Multifamily Developer Representation: Negotiated dozens of design and construction contracts for developers of multifamily projects for both market-rate and affordable housing projects, including experience with HUD and Florida Housing Finance Corporation.

Honors and Distinctions

- Board Certified in Construction Law, The Florida Bar Board of Legal Specialization & Education
- *The Legal 500*, 2025, Recommended for Real Estate – Construction
- *Best Lawyers*, 2014-2025, Listed in Florida for Construction Law, Commercial Litigation, and Litigation - Construction
- *Chambers USA*, 2014 - 2018, Listed for Construction
- *Super Lawyers* Magazine 2009-2014, Listed as a Rising Star in Construction Law
- *Florida Trend's* Legal Elite 2008, Listed as "Up and Coming"

Ranking Methodologies

Affiliations

- Princeton University Alumni Schools Committee, Central Florida Region, Co-chair

Related Professional Experience

- Deputy District Attorney for the County of Los Angeles