



Partner

PAUL GEORGESON

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PHONE 775.788.2000

Areas of Practice

Commercial & Complex Litigation; Construction Law; Appellate Practice

Bar Admissions

Nevada

Court Admissions

U.S. District Court, District of Nevada
U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit
United States Supreme Court

Education

J.D., University of California, Davis, 1994

B.S. with honors, Economics, University of California, Santa Barbara, and Massey University, New Zealand, 1990

Offices

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2300 West Sahara Avenue, Suite 1200
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RENO

100 West Liberty Street, Tenth Floor
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mcdonaldcarano.com

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Mr. Georgeson, a partner in the litigation department of the firm, practices primarily in construction law, commercial and complex litigation, and appellate law. He practices in state and federal courts at the trial and appellate level, and also has extensive experience in alternative dispute resolution. He is admitted to practice in all of the Nevada state courts, the United States District Court for the District of Nevada, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the United States Supreme Court.

AREAS OF EXPERIENCE

Construction Law

Mr. Georgeson is the chairman of the firm's Construction Law Group. He represents primarily general contractors, but also owners, developers, subcontractors, suppliers, and trade associations, in all aspects of both private and public construction law. This includes the drafting, reviewing and negotiating construction contracts and representing his clients in all types of construction disputes—bid disputes, defective construction claims, and payment disputes, including mechanic's lien and bond claims—as well as licensing, construction labor law, and legislative lobbying on construction law issues. Mr. Georgeson regularly presents seminars on construction law topics, including mechanic's liens, construction disputes, construction contracts, contract documents, design build, and construction labor law. He has also authored numerous articles on construction law, which have been published in various legal and trade publications. These articles include "Methods of Resolving Disputes," "Your Code to the Codes," "Unlicensed Contractors," "Terminating a Contract," "New Prompt Pay Laws," "Liquidated Damages," and "Mechanic's Liens."

Commercial & Complex Litigation

Mr. Georgeson has extensive experience handling all types of commercial litigation cases for clients ranging from small local firms to national and international publicly traded companies. His typical cases involve breach of contract, interference with contract, partnership and ownership disputes, commercial landlord-tenant disputes, fraud, conversion, and intellectual property claims. Mr. Georgeson also represents several Northern Nevada casinos and other property owners, defending those clients against premises liability claims such as negligence, negligent security, and negligent hiring and training.

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Appellate Practice

Mr. Georgeson is licensed to appear before the Nevada Supreme Court, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the United States Supreme Court. He has significant experience with writs of mandamus, appeals of administrative decisions, and appeals from state and federal trial courts. Mr. Georgeson is an appellate lawyer representative to the United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit. In that position, he acts as a liaison between the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and federal appellate practitioners to assist the court with the administration of justice. Mr. Georgeson is also a member of the State Bar of Nevada's appellate litigation section.

REPRESENTATIVE ENGAGEMENTS

Represented top 25 Fortune 500 Company in working with Nevada State Contractor's Board to address and facilitate Nevada Contractor's license issues.

Presently acting as Chair of a 3-arbitrator Arbitration Panel in multi-million dollar complex construction dispute involving large upscale mixed-use shopping center.

Represented one of the largest subcontractors in the country in a multi-million dollar "extra work" claim and achieved a very successful settlement for client during the arbitration process after prevailing on key Nevada law issues in state court.

Represented one of nation's largest home-builder companies (a Fortune 500 company) to conform their construction agreements to comply with Nevada law.

Represented Fortune 500 company in obtaining Nevada Contractor's License.

Negotiated, drafted, and edited construction and EPC (engineering, procurement, and construction) contracts for Nevada projects with a collective value in excess of \$1 billion.

Regularly draft and negotiate standard form (AIA/Consensus) and custom construction contracts for Nevada commercial and industrial construction projects.

Represents the owner/developer of a high-profile multi-billion dollar construction project in northern Nevada.

Represented the owner of a geothermal power plant in a \$155 million mechanic's lien case to reach a complicated but satisfactory settlement with the lien claimant and project lenders.

Represented a general contractor client in an extra-work claim for unforeseen underground conditions against the public agency owner. Prevailed at AAA arbitration, obtaining a judgment for full value of the extra work claim plus attorney's fees and costs.

Represented a general contractor in a commercial construction defect case relating to failed concrete floors in a 400,000 square foot warehouse. After a multi-week federal court trial in which the plaintiff sought \$10 million in damages, the court ruled that the problem was caused by the owner's defective design and not by defective construction. The district court's decision was upheld by Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Obtained a \$6 million payment for a general contractor client by prosecuting a mechanic's lien claim for the amount due to the client. Payment was made early in the process, with minimal attorney's fees incurred.

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Obtained a \$1.9 million judgment for a general contractor client by prosecuting a mechanic's lien claim for the amount due to the client, and successfully argued to the court that the client's mechanic's lien had priority over the lender's security interest, which resulted in the client being paid in full.

Worked on the litigation team prosecuting a \$492 million mechanic's lien claim (believed to be the largest ever recorded in Nevada), which resulted in a very successful settlement for the client.

Regularly assisted out-of-state companies in obtaining their Nevada contractor's licenses.

Represented one of the world's largest contractors in revising its standard construction contracts to comply with Nevada law for a high-profile, multi-billion dollar construction project in northern Nevada.

Represented low bidders in bid protest matters several times for public works projects where a bid was challenged by the second bidder. Convinced a public agency to award a contract to the client.

Represented several construction-manager-at-risk (CMAR) contractors to assist in compliance with Nevada's public works CMAR statutes.

Regularly draft, amend, and negotiate key construction law Bills before the Nevada Legislature.



AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

The Best Lawyers in America 2018[®] - "Lawyer of the Year" (Construction Litigation)

The Best Lawyers in America 2017[®] - "Lawyer of the Year" (Construction Law)

The Best Lawyers in America[®] (Commercial Litigation, Construction Law, Litigation: Construction, Personal Injury Litigation: Defendants)

Super Lawyers - "Mountain States Super Lawyers"

Super Lawyers - "Mountain States Rising Stars"

Nevada Business Magazine, "2018 Legal Elite" – Commercial & Complex Litigation, Construction Law & Litigation, Appellate

Martindale Hubbell AV[®] Preeminent Peer Review Rated



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Lawyer representative, U.S. District Court, District of Nevada (2008-12)

Appellate lawyer representative, U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit (Appointed 2013)

Appointed Administrative Law Judge to hear disciplinary and other cases before the Nevada State Contractors Board

Member, Association of Defense Counsel of Northern Nevada

President, Federal Bar Association, Nevada Chapter (2003-04)

Director and Past President, Academy for Career Education Charter High School

Editor, UC Davis Law Review

Extern, Hon. Procter R. Hug, Jr., U.S. Court, Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals

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