



*Partner*

## LEIGH GODDARD

lgoddard@mcdonaldcarano.com

PHONE 775.788.2000

### Areas of Practice

Commercial & Complex Litigation; Employment & Labor Law; Trust & Estates

### Bar Admissions

Nevada

### Education

J.D., University of South Carolina, School of Law, 1997

B.S., Business Finance, College of Charleston, 1991

### PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Leigh practices in commercial and complex litigation, employment & labor law, and trust & estate litigation. Her representation covers all aspects of litigation, from investigation through filing of initial pleadings, discovery, and motion practice, to trial. Leigh is co-chair of the firm's employment law practice and is a frequent lecturer and presenter on this topic and topics in construction law. Throughout her career, Leigh has been recognized as one of the best lawyers in America, named a legal elite by *Nevada Business Magazine* and a mountain state super lawyer by *Super Lawyers Magazine*. She received the Order of the Coif from the University of South Carolina and a Women of Achievement award. She also has an AV preeminent rating with Martindale-Hubbell.

Leigh has extensive experience representing clients in state and federal court. She has represented corporations in contract disputes, trade secret violations, and matters of fraud, misrepresentation, and unfair trade practices. She has represented contractors and developers in construction claims and enforcement of mechanic's liens; and beneficiaries, trustees, and executors in trust and estate litigation matters. She also handles the defense in discrimination and wrongful termination claims and counsels employers in personnel issues, investigations into illegal harassment complaints, and evaluation of demotion and termination decisions.

Leigh belongs to many professional organizations that focus on improving the legal profession and the knowledge of its practitioners. She is master emeritus of Inns of Court, Bruce R. Thompson Chapter; and member and past president of the Federal Bar Association; the American Bar Association, Section of Litigation and Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources; the Nevada Bar Association; and the Washoe County Bar Association. She is also involved in the community as a trustee for the Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada, and participates in numerous local charity events for public education and cancer research.

Leigh is licensed to practice in Nevada and in state and federal courts.

### AREAS OF EXPERIENCE

#### *Commercial & Complex Litigation*

Cases include the representation of corporations in claims involving contract disputes, trade secret violations, tortious interference, breach of fiduciary duty, business entity dissolutions, enforcement and defense of non-competition covenants, fraud, misrepresentation, conversion, defamation, unfair trade practices, and appointment of receivers.

#### *Trust & Estate Litigation*

Cases include the representation of beneficiaries, trustees, and executors in trust and estate litigation matters, including claims for breach of fiduciary duty, surcharge, accounting, and recoupment of fund.

### Offices

#### LAS VEGAS

2300 West Sahara Avenue, Suite 1200  
Las Vegas, NV 89102  
P: 702.873.4100 F: 702.873.9966

#### RENO

100 West Liberty Street, Tenth Floor  
Reno, NV 89501  
P: 775.788.2000 F: 775.788.2020

[mcdonaldcarano.com](http://mcdonaldcarano.com)

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## **Employment**

As co-chair of the firm's employment law practice, Ms. Goddard represents employers and management. This includes defending against discrimination claims and wrongful termination claims in state and federal courts, defending against charges before the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Nevada Equal Rights Commission, counseling employers in personnel issues, investigating illegal harassment complaints, and evaluating demotion and termination decisions. Her representation has also included pursuing and defending claims in state and federal court related to enforcement of employment covenants not to compete.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### ***Seminars Taught***

#### **Non-Competition Covenants in Nevada (webinar), March 30, 2017**

#### **Employment Law (Panel Presentation)**

- Payroll Management in Nevada, Sept. 17, 2002
- Employment-Related Records in Nevada, Jan. 17, 2003
- Overtime Requirements in Nevada, March 18, 2003
- HIPAA for Employers, Feb. 27, 2004

#### **Construction Law (Panel Presentation)**

- The Fundamentals of Construction Contracts: Understanding the Issues in Nevada, June 22, 2006
- Fundamentals of Mechanic's Lien Law in Nevada, Oct. 11, 2007
- The Fundamentals of Construction Contracts: Understanding the Issues in Nevada, July 30, 2008

## **AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**



*The Best Lawyers in America*® (Commercial Litigation)

*Nevada Business Magazine* - "Legal Elite"

*Super Lawyers* - "Mountain States Super Lawyers" (Top 50 Women)

*Super Lawyers* - "Mountain States Super Lawyers" (Commercial Litigation)

Women of Achievement Award

Order of the Coif, University of South Carolina

Martindale Hubbell AV® Preeminent™ Peer Review Rated

## **SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS**



Co-Presenter to the Nevada Chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel, "Nevada Wage & Hour Hot Topics" (Oct. 12, 2016)

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENTS**



Master emeritus, Inns of Court, Bruce R. Thompson Chapter

President, Federal Bar Association (Nevada chapter, 2007-08)

American Bar Association, Section of Litigation

Nevada Bar Association

Washoe County Bar Association

Board of Trustees, Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada

(chair, 2016-2017; vice chair, 2014-15; secretary, 2012-13; treasurer, 2011-12)

Participation in numerous local charity events benefiting public education and cancer research

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