



Karyna Armstrong, Associate

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D: 702-257-4532

Area of Practice

Appellate
Commercial & Complex Litigation

Bar Admissions

Nevada

Education

- J.D., William S. Boyd School of Law, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, 2021
- Master of Public Administration, University of Miami, Coral Gables, 2018
- B.S., Criminal Justice and Political Science & Government, Boise State University, Boise, 2016

Karyna Armstrong is a litigation attorney in McDonald Carano’s Las Vegas office. She assists in the representation of clients in judge and jury trials in state and federal courts, as well as appeals before the Nevada Supreme Court and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Karyna serves as a Vice Chair of the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee at McDonald Carano.

Karyna’s broad range of experience at McDonald Carano includes complex commercial disputes involving breach of contract, business torts, unfair competition, fiduciary duty, partnership disputes, and litigation regarding commercial transactions and contract interpretation. Karyna’s experience includes serving as an Extern to the Honorable James C. Mahan of the U.S. District Court for the District of Nevada, a law clerk in the Las Vegas office of an international law firm, a law clerk in a cannabis law-focused law firm in Las Vegas, and a summer associate at McDonald Carano.

Born and raised in Nevada, Karyna is committed to public service and giving back to the community. Karyna contributes her legal expertise to provide pro bono services through the Children’s Attorneys Project of the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada. She also provides pro bono services to members of the military through the Attorney General’s Office of Military Legal Assistance.

While attending law school, Karyna served in leadership roles in numerous organizations, including Black Law Students Association Treasurer and Liaison for the Las Vegas National Bar Association, Sports and Entertainment Law Association Secretary, Student Bar Association Executive Secretary and Events Committee member, and Policy and Legislation Society committee member. She also earned a CALI Award (highest grade in class) for Lawyering Process (legal writing), was recognized as the Summer Outstanding Student (Guardianship) in the Community Service Program, and received a State Bar of Nevada Professional Development Fellowship. Karyna was a finalist in the “Making the Law Writing Competition” where she advocated for student athletes to be allowed to be paid for their name, image, and likeness in college athletics – which is now a Nevada law.

While in college, Karyna was a collegiate athlete on the Women's Track and Field team and competed in the hammer throw. During high school, Karyna was a back-to-back regional champion in the shot put with a record-breaking mark of 41'1 3/4" and regional champion in the discus where she still holds the record with a mark of 124'2. Karyna's background includes serving as a Substitute Teacher for the Clark County School District in Las Vegas and a Director of Operations Intern for the University of Miami Athletic Department in Coral Gables, Florida.

Awards and Recognition

- *National Bar Association* – 40 Under 40: Nation's Best Advocates Award (2026)
- *State Bar of Nevada* – Partner in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (2023-2026)
- *Vegas Inc.* – Women Inspiring Nevada (2025)
- *Nevada Lawyer* – Nevada Trailblazer (July 2025)
- Hall of Fame Inductee – Lancers Athletics, McQueen High School, Reno, NV (2024)
- *Mountain States Super Lawyers* – "Rising Stars" (2024-2025)
- *Nevada Business Magazine* – "Top Rank Attorneys" (2023-2025), "Best Up & Coming Attorneys" (2024)
- Meritas Law Firms Worldwide Women's Leadership Congress – "highly recommended" "Rising Star of the Year" recognition, Women's Leadership Awards (2024)
- *Profiles in Diversity Journal* – "Diverse Lawyers Making a Difference," one of only 11 lawyers to receive the award across the U.S. (2023)

Publications and Presentations

- Panel Presenter, "Pro Bono in Private Practice," Public Interest Law Association's Pro Bono Week program, William S. Boyd School of Law, University of Nevada-Las Vegas, October 20, 2025
- Panel Presenter, "BLSA Alumni Spill the Secrets of Success," Black Law Students Association, William S. Boyd School of Law, University of Nevada-Las Vegas, April 17, 2025
- Panel Presenter, Alumni Perspective, Admitted Students Day, William S. Boyd School of Law, University of Nevada-Las Vegas, March 29, 2025
- Panel Presenter, "Pro Bono in Private Practice," Public Interest Law Association's Pro Bono Week program, William S. Boyd School of Law, University of Nevada-Las Vegas, October 22, 2024
- Co-Presenter, "Bystander Intervention: Promoting a Safer and More Inclusive Environment," Clark County Bar Association's Diversity and Inclusion Committee for Equity, October 2, 2024
- Panel Presenter, "Succeeding in Law School and Pursuing Career Options in the Legal Profession," Justice Michael L. Douglas PreLaw Fellowship Program, UNLV William S. Boyd School of Law, June 13, 2024
- Moderator, "Women in Law" panel discussion (with retired Judge Nancy Allf, Justice Patricia Lee, and Judge Cristina Silva) hosted by the Las Vegas Chapter of the National Bar Association, March 26, 2024

- Panel Presenter, “Breaking Barriers: Insights from Leading Women Attorneys,” organized by the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada and ACLU/Nevada, July 27, 2023
- Panel Presenter, “How to Succeed as a Summer Associate/Law Clerk at a Firm,” organized by the Career Development office of the William S. Boyd School of Law, University of Nevada-Las Vegas, April 11, 2023
- Panel Presenter, “Conversations with Black Women in the Law,” organized by the Black Law Students Association and the Organization of Women Law Students at the William S. Boyd School of Law, University of Nevada-Las Vegas, March 30, 2023
- Author, “Students Speak, Lawmakers Listen,” *UNLV Law*, the magazine of the William S. Boyd School of Law, pp. 26-27, 2021

Professional Affiliations

- Vice President, Executive Board, Las Vegas Chapter of the National Bar Association (2025-2027)
- Recording Secretary, Executive Board, Las Vegas Chapter of the National Bar Association (2023-2025)
- Chair, Marketing & Content Coordination Committee, Las Vegas Chapter of the National Bar Association (2022-2023)
- Member, Southern Nevada Association of Women Attorneys

Community Engagement

- Volunteer, Nevada Reading Week
- Board member, Family 2 Family Connection (2025, 2024)

McDonald Carano LLP (www.mcdonaldcarano.com)

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