



Kristen Lewis Hayes

Of Counsel

New Orleans | 504.566.8630 | klhayes@bakerdonelson.com

Kristen Hayes concentrates her practice in construction litigation, admiralty and maritime litigation, as well as insurance coverage and personal injury and property damage claim defense.

Ms. Hayes has experience representing contractors and subcontractors in disputes involving claims of breach of contract, change orders, defective work, delay, disruption, inefficiency, unfair trade practices, and other construction-related claims before courts and arbitration panels.

Ms. Hayes also represents clients in general business and insurance-related litigation matters, including insurance coverage disputes, and defense of personal injury and property damage claims.

During law school, she advocated for low-wage workers as a student attorney for the Workplace Justice Clinic at Loyola University New Orleans College of Law.

Representative Matters

- Obtained summary judgment in arbitration on behalf of a general contractor against a \$14 million delay claim by a subcontractor in arbitration involving a City of New Orleans construction project; also obtained summary judgment on subcontractor inefficiency and change order claims of more than \$1.3 million.
- Obtained Rule 12(b)(6) dismissal on behalf of an insurer against a declaratory and bad faith action brought by its insured related to an insurance coverage dispute of more than \$5.7 million.
- Represented the office of the clerk of court for a federal district court in connection with challenges brought by criminal defendants regarding the jury selection process. The court denied all the challenges.

Professional Honors & Activities

- Listed in *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America* for Transportation Law (2023 – 2026)
- Named to *New Orleans Magazine's* "Top Women in Law" list in Construction Law (2026)
- Listed as a "Top Lawyer" in Construction Law by *New Orleans Magazine* (2025)
- Listed as a Louisiana Rising Star in Construction Litigation (2023, 2024, 2026); Business Litigation (2018, 2021, 2022); Civil Litigation: Defense (2019, 2020)
- Member – Louisiana State Bar Association
- Member – Federal Bar Association
- 2017 Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year for New Orleans, Louisiana Office

Publications

- "U.S. Fifth Circuit Firmly Shuts Courthouse Doors on Petitions to Vacate Arbitration Awards for 'Manifest Disregard of the Law'" (June 2025)

Education

- Loyola University New Orleans College of Law, J.D., 2015, magna cum laude
 - Member – *Loyola Law Review*

– William L. Crowe Scholar

- Tulane University, B.S., 2011, cum laude



Admissions

- Louisiana, 2015