



Christopher Vitenas

Shareholder

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Christopher Vitenas concentrates his practice on all aspects of construction law, commercial litigation, and appellate work across the country. This work includes advising clients on front-end issues, such as contract negotiations and licensing requirements, and litigating and arbitrating construction-defect and payment disputes.

As a member of the Construction Group, Christopher Vitenas assists clients across a broad range of construction-related issues on projects and disputes around the country, including contract and licensing issues, as well as construction-defect and payment disputes. Chris also has considerable experience in the enforcement of creditors' rights, post-judgment collection proceedings, and the defense of workers' compensation claims in the context of construction disputes and other matters.

Representative Matters

- Lead Louisiana counsel for one of the nation's largest material suppliers, assisting in lien preservation and enforcement issues, as well as suits to recover sums for materials advanced on open account.
- Part of a litigation team that successfully defeated a \$3 million subcontractor claim for payment as premature based on termination clause in subcontract.
- Obtained nearly \$1 million in judgments against defendants on behalf of a liquidating trustee in a lawsuit filed in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana for turnover and breach of contract in a matter involving software, trademark, and copyright issues, and successfully defended against the defendants' multimillion-dollar counterclaim related to the software and the loss of business reputation.
- Part of a litigation team that defeated a \$5.5 million contractual indemnification claim on dispositive motion basis based on the principles of res judicata.
- Litigated and favorably resolved dozens of cases for the largest workers' compensation insurer in Louisiana for cases pending throughout all districts of the Office of Workers' Compensation and Louisiana's state and federal courts, involving litigation and resolution of complex cases and claims and a myriad of issues including coverage disputes, duty to defend, coordination of coverage and benefits of multi-party and multi-state policies, Medicare Set Asides, and extra-contractual claims.
- Lead Louisiana counsel for a large banking client, assisting with suits based on breaches of financial instruments and post-judgment collection actions.

Professional Honors & Activities

- Listed in *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America* for Commercial Litigation (2021 – 2025)
- Recipient – Baker Donelson Baton Rouge Pro Bono Attorney of the Year (2020)
- Member – Barton Leadership Program, 2017 – 2018
- Member – Louisiana Bar Association
- Guest Lecturer – Louisiana State University Paul M. Herbert Law Center

Publications

- "'ZOOM-ing' In on Virtual Trials: Four Key Considerations for Success," *Trial Spotlight Newsletter* (August 2020)



Speaking Engagements

- Panelist – "Coping with the New Normal in the Workplace - What Louisiana Employers Need to Know Now," Baton Rouge Bar Association In-House Lawyer CLE (October 2020)
- Construction Lien Law Seminar, National Association of Credit Management (September 2016)



Education

- Paul M. Hebert Law Center, Louisiana State University, J.D./D.C.L., 2015, cum laude
 - Moot Court Board
 - Moot Court Corporate Law External Team
- Louisiana State University, M.S. Finance, 2015
- Saint Louis University, B.S. Finance, 2011



Admissions

- Louisiana, 2015