

Teia Moore Kelly



Associate [Houston](#)
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Education

B.S. from University of Utah
J.D. from South Texas College of Law Houston *magna cum laude*

- *South Texas Law Review* (Note & Comment Editor)
- Transactional Practice Certificate

Bar Admissions

Tennessee
Texas
United States District Court for the Northern and Southern Districts of Texas

Related Practices

Litigation
Antitrust
Arbitration
Construction Litigation
Energy Litigation
Insurance Litigation
Personal Injury & Wrongful Death
Products Liability
Warranty

Overview

Teia focuses her practice on complex commercial litigation and transactional matters, with an emphasis on the construction and energy industries. Working closely with her clients, she regularly drafts and negotiates various types of agreements, including oilfield master service agreements (MSAs), construction contracts, corporate formation documents and various commercial agreements, among others.

In addition, Teia has litigation experience in construction defect and equitable adjustment claims, commercial matters, tortious interference and other business tort claims, international arbitration disputes, anti-trust claims, products liability suits, Deceptive Trade Practices Act disputes, breach of contract claims, non-compete, trade secret and proprietary right claims, negligence claims, warranty claims, toxic tort claims, creditors' rights disputes and post judgement enforcement and collection.

Prior to joining Munsch Hardt, Teia was an associate on the Litigation team of a mid-size Houston-based law firm. Teia received her Juris Doctorate from South Texas College of Law, graduating *magna cum laude*. During law school, Teia served as Note & Comment Editor of the *South Texas Law Review* and clerked as a judicial intern for the Honorable Kathleen Stone in the Harris County Probate Court 1. Upon graduation she received the Transactional Practice Certificate for her achievements and focus in transactional courses.

Related Industries

Construction
Energy
Insurance

Achievements

Thomson Reuters – Texas Rising Stars (2017-2019)

Memberships

American Bar Association (Litigation Section Member)
Garland Walker American Inn of Court
Houston Bar Association
Houston Better Business Bureau (Volunteer Mediator and Arbitrator)
Houston Young Lawyers Association
State Bar of Texas

Clerkship

Honorable Kathleen Stone, Harris County Probate Court 1
(Judicial Intern)

Experience

Antitrust Litigation

Currently prosecuting a multi-million dollar tortious interference and anti-trust claims. The case involves anti-competitive acts against the client for supplying a competing product in the job order contract market in Texas.

Breach of Contract

Assisted in the defense of breach of contract, breach of fiduciary duty and negligence claims against the client as the broker for the purchase of a triple net lease property and 1031 exchange. This case was mediated early in the discovery stage and achieved a fair and equitable settlement.

Products Liability

Defended a million dollar products liability, Deceptive Trade Practices Act (DTPA), warranty and breach of contract claim. This case involved an underground blowout allegedly caused by the failure of a repaired casing patch to withstand the intended pressure. The parties achieved an attractive settlement agreement during mediation.

International Arbitration

Defended a multi-million dollar international arbitration dispute involving the sale of Chinese oil rigs to Venezuelan entities. The Plaintiff sought commission payments related to the defendants' sale of oil rigs to Venezuela. The Plaintiff argued the commissions were owed based on the theory that services provided more than three years earlier set events in motion which resulted in the underlying sale. The arbitration panel rendered judgment in favor of the Plaintiff and awarded roughly 10% of the damages claimed. As neither party was satisfied with the award, the parties participated in a post-arbitration mediation, resulting in a further reduction of damages by almost 35%.

Breach of Contract + Fraud

Defended claims by a contractor for breach of contract, fraudulent inducement, negligent misrepresentation and promissory estoppel. This was a steel fabrication dispute. The Plaintiff claimed that the client breached the contract by failing to deliver steel to the project on time; client argued that the Plaintiff's failure to approve or reject the design drawings prevented them from proceeding with the work. The case ultimately settled for more than half the amount originally sought by Plaintiff.

Equitable Adjustment

Prosecuted a multi-million dollar equitable adjustment claim against the General Service Administration (GSA) in the Court of the Civilian Board of Civil Appeals involving the construction of the El Paso Court House. The claim was that the GSA's failure to produce adequate contract documents caused the contractor considerable financial harm, and thus the contractor was entitled to an equitable adjustment. The case was mediated and resulted in a favorable settlement.

Equitable Adjustment

Assisted in the defense of a breach of contract claim seeking an equitable adjustment and rescission of a contract for the construction of the New Broadway Waste Water Treatment Plant in Corpus Christi, Texas. Successfully drafted response to Motion for Summary Judgment resulting in complete denial.

Insurance Coverage Dispute

Participated in prosecution of insurance coverage dispute involving the denial of coverage under a builder's risk policy for loss of a pipeline structure during construction of a gas pipeline.

Personal Injury + Wrongful Death

Represented three of sixteen oil company defendants in a wrongful death suit resulting from an alleged exposure to benzene during the deceased's employment with the prime contractor defendant/indemnitor.

Interim In-House Legal Counsel

Selected to act as in-house legal counsel for a three-month interim basis for an international oilfield products company, serving the subsea, drilling, completion, production and infrastructure sectors of the oil and natural gas industry. Responsibilities included contract negotiation for the company's national and international divisions, and serving as lead negotiator for a multi-million dollar worldwide Master Service Agreement (MSA) with the world's leading provider of technology for reservoir characterization, drilling, production and processing to the oil and gas industry.

Newsroom

Press Release: 14 Munsch Hardt Attorneys Named on the Super Lawyers 2019 Rising Stars List

Press Release: Twelve Munsch Hardt Attorneys Named to 2018 Texas Rising Stars List

In The News: Munsch Hardt Adds Four Construction Law Laterals in Houston

Press Release: Munsch Hardt's Construction Practice Experiences Significant Growth

Article: A Potential Gap in Indemnity Coverage

Article: A Bird's Eye View of the Nation's Oilfield-Services Anti-Indemnity Acts

Article: Rectifying the Plan Documents Rule Under ERISA