

Robert Bass

Shareholder

Practices: Construction

Industries: Higher Education; P3, Infrastructure & Project Finance; Real Estate; Sports Business

Robert represents Winstead's real estate development, lending, and construction industry clients on a wide range of issues based on his extensive, practical experience in litigating construction disputes and in drafting and negotiating both large and small construction contracts. Additionally, with his contacts and experience in lobbying the Texas Legislature with regard to construction-related legislation, Robert has key insight into the development of construction law in Texas.

Unique Lawyer Experience

"Robert Bass is widely viewed as a star of Texas construction law. His forte lies in transactional construction matters, and he also represents clients in complex disputes. Sources say, When someone wants to know why the construction law in Texas is the way it is, the answer is always 'Ask Robert Bass!'"

— Chambers USA Guide (2011)

Trusted Advisor and Industry Leader

Because of his years of experience handling both transactional and dispute resolution matters for all segments of the construction industry, Robert is often called upon to assist clients in developing contract templates and protocols for managing various types of projects across different jurisdictions. He has served as "outside general counsel" for construction for several clients in developing construction related contract templates, establishing procedures for customizing templates in various jurisdictions, and working with local counsel in other jurisdictions to maintain continuity with the client's contracting needs and requirements. He has a very wide-range of sophisticated but practical templates in his tool box to meet our clients' varied construction contracting needs.

Robert is a prolific speaker on construction topics, both to the construction industry as a whole and to specific clients and client groups. He particularly enjoys the opportunity to provide training to our clients' development and construction personnel on best practices for contracting, project management, and avoiding / mitigating claims and litigation.

Contracts and Transactional Matters

Robert has extensive experience in drafting and negotiating construction documents and advising clients during construction with regard to a wide range of public and private construction projects including Commercial / Mixed Use, Multi-Family, University and Public-Private Partnership (P3) Projects, Sports Venues, and Healthcare Facilities. His recent experience has included:

- Representing developer in drafting and negotiating design, consulting, and construction contracts for a mixed-use development consisting of a mid-rise office building and high rise tower



Austin Office

512.370.2852 Direct

512.370.2850 Fax

rbass@winstead.com

Education

University of Texas School of Law

– J.D., 1977

Yale University

– M.A.R., 1973

Baylor University

– B.A., 1971

with residential condominium units, high-end multi-family rental units, hotel, and separate ballroom with underground parking, retail, and other amenities

- Representing developer group in drafting and negotiating design, consulting, and construction contracts for mixed-use development consisting of two high-rise towers with office, hotel, retail, and multi-family (for rent) residential, utilizing a non-residential condominium structure
- Representing national developer (REIT) and its captive general contractor for construction of multi-family projects throughout U.S., including development of all contract templates and coordinating use in multiple jurisdictions with local counsel
- Representing private, national university in Texas for development of template contracts for design and construction and drafting and negotiating design and construction contracts for renovation and new construction work on campus
- Represented public university system in Texas with regard to negotiation of development contract and drafting and negotiating design and construction contracts for P3 development of garage, conference center, and hotel connecting to iconic football stadium on campus
- [Click Here](#) for a more complete list of representative matters.

Legislative and Administrative

For many years, Robert represented several construction related trade associations and played an instrumental role in the development of construction law in areas such as mechanic's liens, insurance and indemnity, surety, and allocation of credit and construction risk. He continues to keep a close watch on the development of construction related legislation.

Resolution of Construction Disputes and Work-outs

Robert started his career as a lawyer handling various types of commercial litigation matters. For many years, construction litigation was a major part of his practice. And, while he mostly handles the transactional side nowadays and advises clients on how best to avoid claims and litigation, he is often called upon to assist clients in working through and resolving disputes that arise on construction projects.

- [Click Here](#) for a more complete list of representative matters.

Professional & Community Service

- State Bar of Texas (Construction Law Section: Chair, 2007-2008; Vice-Chair, 2006-2007; Secretary, 2005-2006; Treasurer, 2004-2005; Council, 1994-1997; Legislative Affairs Advisor, 2001-2004; 2009-2015)
- Texas Board of Legal Specialization, Construction Law Examination Commission (2016-2019) (Examiner for Board Certification in Construction Law)
- Texas Bar Foundation (Life Fellow)
- American Bar Association (Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section: Section Secretary, 1992-1995; Life Fellow of the Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section; Forum Committee on the Construction Industry: Steering Committee, Division 12, 2001-2004)
- Austin Bar Association (Construction Law Section)
- Texas Building Branch (Associated General Contractors, Legal Affairs Committee)
- American Institute of Architects (Allied Member)
- Urban Land Institute (Austin), Young Leader Mentorship Forum (Mentor, 2023-2024)

Awards & Recognition

- *The Best Lawyers in America*, (BL Rankings, LLC), Construction Law, 2007-2025
- *The Best Lawyers in America*, (BL Rankings, LLC), "Lawyer of the Year" - Austin Construction Law, 2012, 2013 and 2016; "Lawyer of the Year" - Austin Construction Litigation, 2015
- Martindale-Hubbell AV Rated (over 25 years) - Preeminent

- Chairman's Award, Texas Building Branch, Associated General Contractors, 2011
- Leadership and Service Award, Texas Building Branch, Associated General Contractors, 2005
- Texas Super Lawyers, Thomson Reuters, Construction Law, 2006-2023
- *Chambers USA Guide to America*, Chambers & Partners Publishing, Construction Law 2006-2025 (currently "Star Individual")
- Who's Who Legal, Lexology, Construction, 2024

Admissions

- Texas, 1977
- U.S. Supreme Court
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit