

UNDERWOOD



Cara Kennemer

Shareholder

Profile

Cara Kennemer's practice focuses on all aspects of commercial and residential construction law. Cara assists owners, contractors, design professionals, subcontractors, and suppliers in the negotiation and preparation of design and construction contracts and advises clients on risk allocation and project management. She litigates and arbitrates disputes involving design and construction errors, delay claims, building performance problems, lien and bond claims, collection of construction funds, and termination issues.

Cara also helps clients protect their lien and bond claims through the process of pre-claim notices, filing of mechanic's and materialman's liens and surety bond claims, negotiating payment with contractors and property owners, and filing suit to litigate lien and bond claims.

In addition to construction-related matters, Cara prosecutes and defends various commercial and real estate-related disputes in state and federal court, including breach of contract, fraud, non-complete provisions, and deceptive trade practice claims.

Cara is a frequent speaker and author on a variety of topics concerning the construction industry for the State Bar of Texas and professional trade organizations.

Practice Areas

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- Business and Corporate
- Construction
- Litigation
- Real Estate
- Bankruptcy and Creditors' Rights

Bar/Court Admissions

- [State Bar of Texas](#), 2002
- U.S. District Court, [Northern](#), [Western](#), [Eastern](#), and [Southern](#) Districts of Texas

Education

- [Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law](#)
 - J.D. with Honors, 2002
- [University of Texas at Austin](#)
 - B.A. with High Honors, 1998

Affiliations

- [State Bar of Texas, Construction Section](#)
- Presiding Officer, The Basic Course in Texas Construction Law (2018, 2019)
- State Bar Young Construction Lawyer Committee Chairperson (2018, 2019)
- Young Lawyers Committee Representative to the [State Bar Construction Law Section](#) (2017-2018)
- Texas Women's Construction Law Group, Fort Worth/West Texas Chair (State Bar Construction Section)
- [Tarrant County Bar Association, Construction Section](#), Chair 2016 – 2017; Vice Chair 2015-2016; Secretary 2014-2015
- [Dallas Bar Association, Construction Section](#), Council Member 2013 - 2016
- [Texas Association of Defense Counsel](#)
- [Leadership Fort Worth](#) 2016 - 2017
- [Historic Fort Worth, Inc.](#), Board of Directors Chairperson (2019) and Public Affairs Committee Chairperson (2016-2018)
- DRC Solutions for Homelessness, Board of Directors
- [Junior League of Fort Worth](#)
 - Legal Advisory Committee
 - Mentor, All aBoard Program 2019-2020
- [Tarrant County Historical Commission](#), Member 2013 - 2014

Experience

Recognitions

- Best Lawyers in America for Construction, 2018, 2019

- [Texas Super Lawyer](#), Construction Litigation Thompson Reuters, 2016-2019
 - Top 50 Women, 2019
 - Top 100 Texas, 2019
 - Top 100 Dallas/Fort Worth, 2019
- [Top 40 Under 40 Honoree](#), Fort Worth Business Press
- ["Top Attorney" Fort Worth](#), Texas Magazine 2014 to present
- ["Texas Rising Star"](#) by [Texas Super Lawyers Magazine](#), 2012

Publications

Publications and Presentations

- "Managing Receivables" – CFO Controllers Conference, Fort Worth Chapter of the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants (2018)
- "Managing Receivables and Other Construction Law Issues for Consulting Estimators" - CERT (Consulting Estimators Round Table) Fall Southeast Conference (2018)
- "Construction Law Issues: Project-Close Out, Revising Contract Clauses, and Arbitrating Disputes" - Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce's Construction Services Group (2018)
- "Contract Law Primer for Engineers" – Engineering Law and Ethics CLE (2017)
- "Tips on Avoiding Malpractice for the Construction Lawyer" – State Bar Basic Course in Construction Law (2017)
- "Alternatives to Securing Contractor Performance" - State Bar Conference for Construction Law (2017)
- "Tips on Avoiding Malpractice for the Construction Lawyer" - State Bar Basic Course in Construction Law (2016)
- "Construction Law Issues: Contracts, Disputes, and Collections" - Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce's Construction Services Group (2016)
- "Bidding Tips for Subcontractors" - Independent Electrical Contractors Fort Worth/Tarrant County Chapter Panel Discussion, 2016
- "Public-Private Partnerships: How to Secure the Payment" - State Bar Conference for Construction Law (2017)
- "Ethics for Construction Lawyers" - Dallas Bar Association, Construction Section (2015)
- "Contracts for Design Services" - Texas Engineering Law CLE (2014)
- "Review of Black + Vernooy/Third-Party Beneficiary Claims" – Dallas Bar Association, Construction Law Section (2014)
- "Reviewing Contracts for Design Services" – Texas Engineering Law Seminar (2014)
- "Ethical Issues in Construction Law" - Basics in Construction Course (2014)
- "Dispute Avoidance, Management, and Resolution for Design Professionals" - Building Professional Institute (2013)
- "Ethics in Construction Law" - Real Estate Development & Construction Law Seminar (2013)
- "Texas Lien Rights for Engineers and Architects" - Building Professional Institute (2012)
- "Tips on Avoiding Malpractice for the Construction Lawyer" - Dallas Bar Association, Construction Law Section (2012)
- "Tips on Avoiding Malpractice for the Young Construction Lawyer" – State Bar Basic Course in

Construction Law (2011)

- "Construction Law Update" - University of Texas School of Law Construction Law Conference (2011)
- "Current Developments and Practice Tips Involving Liens in Place" – (co-authored publication) University of Texas School of Law Construction Law Conference (2010)
- "Breakthrough Collection Strategies in Texas" – National Business Institute (2005)
- "Successful Judgment Collections in Texas" – National Business Institute (2004)
- "Dealing with the Government : HIPPA" – AIA Forum, Selected Topics in Risk Management for Engineers and Architects (2004)
- "Dispute Avoidance, Management and Resolution" – AIA Forum, Selected Topics in Risk Management for Engineers and Architects (2003)
- "Arbitration" – Foundation Repair Association, Dallas Chapter (2003)

- Cara Kennemer named Texas Super Lawyer Top 50 Women and Top 100 Lawyers in Texas and DFW
- Ten Underwood Attorneys Selected to 2019 Super Lawyers List
- Collections: Increased Profitability, Managing Receivables and Options to Recover Bad Debt - Fort Worth Business Assistance Center (2019)
- Shareholder Cara Kennemer has been named Historic Fort Worth's Inc.'s Board Chairman
- Attorney Cara Kennemer Presents at CERT Conference
- 13 Underwood Law Firm, P.C. lawyers named to 2019 Best Lawyers® list
- Cara Kennemer and Richard Schellhammer Present on Commercial Construction Issues
- 13 Underwood Attorneys Named to 2018 Best Lawyers® List
- Eight Underwood Attorneys Selected to 2017 Super Lawyers List
- Fort Worth Attorneys Win Top Attorney Award
- Ft. Worth Chamber of Commerce Presentation
- Presentation on Mechanics Lien Issues
- Fort Worth Top Attorneys 2016
- Lawyer Receives Construction Law Certification from Texas Board
- Cara Kennemer Named to Leadership Fort Worth Class of 2017
- Cara Kennemer - Fort Worth 40-Under-40
- Kennemer and Schellhammer Present at State Bar Construction Conference
- Kennemer Participates in the Basics Course in Construction Law
- Arbitration Award Vacated for Delay



