



# April A. Roche

## Partner

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April's primary area of practice is construction law. She is certified by the Florida Bar as a Construction Law Specialist and is AV® Peer Review Rated by Martindale-Hubbell. She has been with the firm since 2003.

April's practice includes the representation of general contractors, construction managers, subcontractors, owner/developers and other construction professionals in the litigation, arbitration, and mediation of construction and design defect claims, contract claims, construction lien claims, delay-and-impact claims, surety bond claims, insurance claims and related matters on low-rise, mid-rise and high-rise residential, commercial, and municipal projects. Her practice also includes the representation of heavy civil and roadway contractors on claims involving bridges, roads, and highways. She is highly experienced in the negotiation and preparation of construction contracts, as well as project administration assistance during construction for the early identification and resolution of conflicts and disputes.

April has represented clients in litigation and arbitration involving delays, liens, bonds, statutory code violations, and construction defects arising from the construction of foundations, reinforced and posttension concrete construction, masonry, roofing, windows, stucco, EIFS systems, curtain wall systems, paint, mechanical, electrical, and plumbing

systems, fire sprinkler systems, and many other building systems and components. April has also represented clients with claims arising from design defects involving mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems. A native Virginian, April is licensed to practice law by the State of Florida and Commonwealth of Virginia.

April loves spending time with her husband AJ and their dogs and cat, crafting, and studying God's Word. She also enjoys exercising. April received her motorcycle endorsement in 2008 and rides sometimes with her Dad at Bikeweek or Biketoberfest.

## Representative Experience

- Represent numerous contractors and subcontractors in lien and bond claims
- Defended general contractor from \$15MM+/- construction defect claims brought by owner of remodeled International Drive Hotel, including prosecution of third-party claims against subcontractors and mechanical engineer
- Prosecuted general contractor and subcontractors for \$2-3MM construction defect claims brought by subsequent owner of Clermont medical facilities, including prosecution of claims against original owner who allegedly gave undisclosed release to general contractor before conveying project
- Won summary judgment against secured creditor in bankruptcy adversary proceeding on behalf of surety for contract proceeds on projects
- Won summary judgment against contractor lienor who did not substantially complete project
- Won summary judgment of strict liability against utility company subcontractor who negligently energized transformer causing property damage
- Argued before the Fifth District Court of Appeal for owners whose property was lienied by contractor who did not substantially complete project
- Lead attorney in multi-day arbitration representing owners of multi-story beach condominium project in claims against builder
- Defended electrical contractor from general contractor's delay and breach claims
- Defended concrete and masonry subcontractor from general contractor's delay and breach claims
- Lead attorney in multi-day DOAH proceeding representing applicant, general contractor, and designer in permit violation claims brought by FDOT

- Represented general contractor in complex differing site condition case involving subsurface conditions
- Prosecuted \$5MM+/- damages claim on behalf of roadway design-builder against designer
- Drafted and negotiated construction contracts for condominiums, hotels, apartments, houses, shopping centers, tenant build-outs, jail, football stadium, zoo, pet boarding facility, medical and dental offices, public facilities, roadways

## Professional Experience

### Professional Memberships

- Florida Bar
- Virginia Bar
- National Association of Women in Construction, Member, Former Member, 2003-2011, Chapter #73 Greater Orlando President 2009-2010, Incoming President 2008-2009, Outgoing President 2010-2011, Board Member multiple years, Chair of CAD Drafting Competition multiple years
- Florida Bar Construction Law Committee, 2005-present, Past Vice-Chair multiple years
- Florida Bar Construction Law Certification Review Course Committee, Past Vice-Chair
- Florida Bar Executive Council, Real Property, Probate, and Trust Law Section, Former Member multiple years

### Honors & Accolades

- AV® Peer Review Rated by Martindale-Hubbell
- Super Lawyer “Rising Star” 2010-2015
- Super Lawyer 2016-2017, 2019
- Former Law Clerk to the Honorable John Antoon II, Senior U.S. District Judge, Middle District of Florida

# Speaking Engagements

- Collecting on Bonded Jobs, National Association of Credit Management, 2012-2013
- Construction Law for Public Projects, HalfMoon Education Inc., 2015
- Alternative Dispute Resolution, The Florida Bar, 2008
- Lien Law and Project Documentation Seminars for trade associations and clients

# Community Involvement

- Volunteer Mentor with Best Buddies, 2008-2020
- Beth Moore Ladies Bible Studies at Delaney Street Baptist Church, 2008-present, Facilitator 2014-present

# Practice Areas

- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Construction Contract Drafting, Procurement & Project Delivery
- Construction Defect Claims
- Construction Delay, Disruption & Acceleration Claims
- Construction Insurance Coverage Disputes
- Construction Lien Preparation & Litigation
- Construction Litigation
- Construction Regulation & Licensing Compliance
- Payment & Performance Bond Claims