



## Heather M. Beam

Partner

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Heather Beam focuses her practice on complex design and construction litigation in arbitrations, state court, and federal court. She has successfully represented general contractors, subcontractors, architects, engineers, surveyors, realtors, and brokers in residential, commercial, and highway projects.

Her practice includes the defense of design and construction defects, construction site injuries and fatalities, and allegations of fraud and concealment of defects in the sale of properties.

Heather also has experience drafting contracts for design professionals and contractors at the beginning of projects, advising clients during ongoing construction projects when problems arise, and negotiating claims to help her clients avoid litigation. She also handles representing clients in professional licensure board complaints.

Heather prides herself on keeping her clients informed as a case develops. By actively communicating with her clients at every step of the litigation process, she fine-tunes her approach to ensure she is constantly focused on their best interests.

She is also an active member of several professional organizations in Travis County and enjoys speaking on issues that face contractors, subcontractors, and design professionals.

### Representative Experience

Obtained multiple dismissals of architects and engineers in lawsuits based on failure to comply with the certificate of merit requirement.

Negotiated favorable settlements for the general contractor in multiple pre-suit claims and complex lawsuits arising out of alleged defects in a luxury high-rise building before conducting written discovery or depositions.

Obtained summary judgment for roofing subcontractor in complex construction defect arbitration based on expiration of statute of repose.

Obtained partial judgment on the pleadings for subcontractor in construction defect lawsuit since subcontractor did not owe a legal duty to the property owner.

Negotiated a settlement in complex arbitration for a materials testing engineer arising out of alleged design and construction defects in a large highway project.

Assisted multiple architects in risk management strategies during active construction projects.

Successful in appeal, holding that the trial court abused its discretion in denying the general contractor's motion to compel arbitration.

*Anderson-Jenkins Signature Homes, Ltd. v. Allen*, 2018 WL 6331135 (Tex.App.—San Antonio Dec. 5, 2018, no pet.)

## Awards & Recognition

### BEST LAWYERS IN AMERICA

Listed for Litigation - Construction

2026

### BEST LAWYERS: ONES TO WATCH

Listed for Construction Law; Litigation – Construction; Product Liability Litigation

2022-2024

### TEXAS SUPER LAWYERS - RISING STAR

Listed for Construction Litigation: Business

2021-2024

### AUSTIN MONTHLY TOP ATTORNEYS

Listed for Construction

2020, 2023-2024

## Related Services

Construction

Products Liability & Mass Torts

Professional Liability

## Publications & Speaking Engagements

## Concrete Cancer Claims: Managing the Spread in 2025

CLM Annual Conference

April 2025

## Construction Defect Claims: Evaluating Expert Testimony & Considerations for Adjusters

Mock Deposition Expert Witness Training

April 2025

## What Type of Expert Do I Need?

State Bar of Texas 38th Annual Construction Law Conference

San Antonio, TX

March 2025

## Insurance Defense: Introduction to the Tripartite Relationship and Avoiding Conflicts of Interest

Strafford webinar

June 2024

## I Hear You – Tips to Improve Communication between Carriers & Counsel in Case Preparation

Complex Claims & Litigation Forum

February 2024

## Striking a Deal: The Art and Science of Settling Cases

State Bar of Texas Construction CLE

January 2024

## Getting on the Same Page: Communication Strategies To Avoid Conflict in the Tripartite Relationship

Construction Claims Magazine, Fall 2023

Oct 12, 2023

## Partnering with In-House Counsel on Insurance Defense Matters, co-author

LexisNexis Practical Guidance

September 2023

## Partnering with In-House Counsel on Positioning Claims for Settlement

LexisNexis Practical Guidance

May 3, 2023

## Design and Construction Defect Claims: Overview and Defense Strategies

LexisNexis

Nov 10, 2022

## Discovery Strategies For Design And Construction Cases

Law360

November 2022

## Watch Your Spec: Risk Management for Delegated Design

Austin Chapter of the Construction Specifiers Institute

May 12, 2021

## **Construction Litigation & Minimizing Liability Exposure**

Legal Issues for Texas Civil Engineers Seminar

December 19, 2018

## **Education, Admissions & Activities**

### **EDUCATION**

#### **Campbell University School of Law**

J.D., cum laude, 2010

ABA National Moot Court Team

Law Review Comments Editor

#### **University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**

B.A., Political Science and Psychology, 2006

### **BAR ADMISSIONS**

#### **Texas**

2017

#### **North Carolina**

2010

### **COURT ADMISSIONS**

#### **United States District Court of North Carolina**

Eastern, Middle, and Western

#### **United States District Court of Texas**

Eastern District

### **PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES**

#### **Texas Advocacy Project**

Volunteer Legal Line Attorney, 2019-2020

#### **Austin Bar Association**

Treasurer, Construction Section, 2024; Construction Law Section Council, 2022-2023

#### **Austin Young Lawyers Association**

#### **Travis County Women Lawyers' Association**

**North Carolina Judicial District 3B Bar**

Vice President, 2017; Secretary and Treasurer, 2016

**Craven County Bar Association**

President 2014-2015; Secretary and Treasurer, 2013-2014