

SONJA C. RICE

PARTNER



Hahn Loeser & Parks LLP

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PRIMARY PRACTICES

Business Law

Construction

Sonja C. Rice is a partner in the firm's Business Law Area, member of the firm's Construction Law Practice Group, chair of the firm's Women's Leadership Initiative, and member of the firm's Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

Sonja's practice focuses on commercial transactions and the development and negotiation of a wide variety of commercial contracts, including master services agreements, supply chain and manufacturing agreements, professional services contracts, intellectual property development and licensing agreements, energy savings performance contracts, and facilities management outsourcing agreements. Sonja also has significant experience in the development and negotiation of construction contracts at all levels and the resolution of construction-related disputes. Previously with the firm's litigation group, and now with the firm's business practice group, Sonja has represented Fortune 500 companies, privately-held businesses, and non-profit organizations across the United States in fields including construction, manufacturing, energy, information technology, and real estate.

Sonja is a frequent speaker on a variety of topics including contract terms and conditions, construction contract negotiation, claims avoidance, and risk mitigation. She regularly leads seminars for clients, focusing on best practices in the negotiation of supply chain agreements and construction project documentation. She has also been a professor of appellate practice at Case Western Reserve University School of Law.

BAR ADMISSIONS

- State of Ohio, 2001
- U.S. District Courts for the Northern and Southern Districts of Ohio, 2002; U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, 2003; U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, 2005; U.S. Supreme Court, 2007

EDUCATION

- Case Western Reserve University School of Law, J.D., cum laude, 2001
- Order of Barristers; International Academy of Trial Lawyers Award; William H. Wallace Award; Dean Dunmore Moot Court Competition Award; National Moot Court team
- Oberlin College, B.A., 1992
- Classical piano training at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music

AWARDS & HONORS

- The Best Lawyers in America®, Corporate Law, 2024-25
- 2023 Women of Note, Crain's Cleveland Business
- 2023 Big Heart Award for Professional Services, Friends for Animals of Metro Detroit
- Notable Nonprofit Board Leaders, Crain's Cleveland Business, 2023

PUBLICATIONS & SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Joint Venture Basics
- Construction Law: Advanced Issues and Answers (National Business Institute)
- Women in Construction Week Panel
- Construction Law: Advanced Issues and Answers
- Legal Perspectives: A Perfect Green Storm and Residential Building
- Beware What Your Contract Says: It Just Might Be Enforced
- Employing Minors in Construction
- “Greening” Your Contracts (Properties Magazine)
- Legal Contracting Basics
- “Time is of the Essence” – or is it?
- Executive Order 14173: What it Means for Federal Contractors and Subcontractors
- Executive Order 14173 Injunction and Updates
- Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals Allows for Enforcement of DEI-Related Executive Orders Pending Appeal
- Construction Contracts for Manufacturing Facilities
- U.S. District Court Judge Temporarily Blocks Department of Labor from Enforcing Certain Provisions of DEI-Related Executive Orders
- U.S. District Court Judge Grants Preliminary Injunction Blocking Department of Labor from Enforcing Certain Provisions of DEI-Related Executive Orders
- Department of Justice Rescinds Prior Report About Race and Sex in Federal Contracting
- Update: Making Sense of the Evolving DEI Landscape and its Effects on Federal Contractors and Grantees
- DOJ Civil Rights Fraud Initiative Set to Investigate Federal Government Contractors and Grantees
- U.S. Northern District of California Grants Limited Preliminary Injunction of DEI-Related Executive Orders

MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS

- National Asian Pacific American Bar Association, Member
- Asian American Bar Association of Ohio, Board of Trustees, Member, 2007-present; By-Laws Committee, Chair, 2013